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COWBRIDGE REINDEER PARADE Page 22
Bridgend and the Vale plan to merge – is it true love? Page 24
RHOOSE GETS READY FOR CHRISTMAS Pages 26-27
IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND Pages 31-34

Local volunteers are honoured at an awards ceremony SEE PAGE 6 FOR FULL STORY.

Santa, elves and 50 'angels' will help to light up the town!

BRIDGEND town will be full of festive cheer in the build-up to Christmas, when Santa arrives at 11am this Saturday (November 29,) with his trusty reindeer.

Santa and his elves will be meeting children in his grotto at Carnegie House (the old public library) in Wyndham Street from noon, while his reindeer will wait outside until 3pm.

At 4pm, Santa will leave the grotto for the grand switch-on of the Christmas lights at 4.30pm in Dunraven Place. He will be surrounded by 50 angels, aged from six to 10 years old.

The Christmas grotto will be at Carnegie House between 10am and 4pm on remaining Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas. On Saturday, December 6, there is the popular free ride around town on the Santa Express Train; and on Saturday, December 13 at 1pm, the world-record bid for the most elves gathering in the town takes place in Adare Street.

Coun David Unwin of Bridgend Town Council decorations team said: "Last year, there were over 1,500 and we aim to reach 1,700 this year. Everyone is welcome. All you need to do is wear something green or red, and free elf hats will be provided. Bridgend town offers a wonderful experience for young and not-so-young alike.

"Our town traders are ready with a festive welcome for all!" he added.

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Man attacked on New Year's Day outside local pub

by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN'S life has been "wrecked" after he was attacked outside a pub in Porthcawl, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Keith Edwards was kicked when on the ground and was struck with a length of wood.

A woman friend became hysterical and believed Mr Edwards had been killed, said prosecutor John Warren.

Christopher Heaton (20) of Sycamore Avenue, Newton, a man with no previous convictions, was sent to a young offender institution for 18 months, after pleading guilty to a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC told him that what he did to Mr Edwards was "quite astonishing".

He added: "The effect on his life has been considerable."

Mr Warren said Heaton carried out the attack when he intervened and wrongly perceived his brother was going to be assaulted.

Mr Warren said that on New Year's Day, Mr Edwards and friends went to the New Brogden pub in Porthcawl.

At one point, he and a woman friend went outside to smoke. It was there that Heaton carried out the attack.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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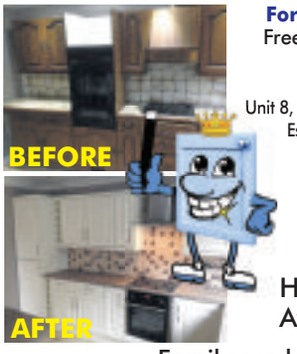

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cefn Cribwr Events

I HAVE been informed of three events that residents will enjoy in the community centre (Green Hall).

Firstly, there is a Christmas fair on Saturday November 29, beginning at 11am. It is an ideal time for young members of the community to meet the one and only Father Christmas. There will be a number of stalls offering goodies for Christmas, including homemade cakes and local Cefn honey.

There will also be a number of prizes to be won including a luxury hamper.

On December 9 at 7pm, there will an adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* performed by the Lighthouse Theatre Company. Organised by Cefn Gwyrdd, there will be performances by local artistes, including Bethan Nia, Brychan Jones, Marc Weinzweig, Alun Battrick and the Cefn cast of *Under Milk Wood*. Tickets can be obtained from John on 01656 742348, or email: *masoncj4@hotmail.com*

There will be a carol concert on December 15 at 7pm in Pisgah Chapel, at which a number of adult and children's choirs will be taking part.

Ynysawdre Community Hall

ON Friday, November 28 at 7pm, Ogmore Vale Male Voice Choir will be performing at Ynysawdre Community Hall to help raise funds for the community.

One of the foremost choirs in the Bridgend area, it has just returned from performing in a prestigious concert at the Goldsmith's Hall, London in front of the retiring City of London Mayor, Fiona Woolfe.

The choir is also busy rehearsing for the concert next April in the Royal Albert Hall starring 1,000 Welsh voices. The choir rehearses at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale, on Thursdays from 7pm. New members and visitors welcome.

Three choirs

ON Friday, November 28 at 7.15pm there is a concert at the Bethal Community Church, Castle Street, Maesteg organised by the Salvation Army.

There will be a collection of toys for disadvantaged children throughout south Wales, and three local choirs will be providing entertainment and also leading the audience in Christmas carols.

The choirs are Plasnewydd Primary School choir, Maesteg Children's Choir and Noteworthy, mixed voice choir.

Music will be provided by the Salvation Army band, and trumpet soloist Harvey Rees.Tickets are £4 adults, £2 children (pay at the door).

Aberkenfig WI

ABERKENFIG & District WI president Eunice Williams welcomed the members to the meeting, when 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Dorothy Thomas.

There was a knock at the door and in trouped 22 members of Tondu Primary School Choir with two teachers, all ready to entertain members with their new Christmas songs, specially learned for a concert of 1,000 children's voices from Swansea and Newport on December 4 in Cardiff. The new songs included Gwyl i Garu, On Christmas Night and Just Believe.

The children were accompanied by teachers Rhian Davies and Lynne Clough.

The newsletter was gone through and members were asked to decide which events they would like to attend. The centenary lunch and floral art demonstration at the Aberavon Beach Hotel on January 19 proved to be popular, as was The Taste of Wales, a celebration of Welsh cheeses at Lanharry Workingmen's Club on February 28.

The annual shopping trip to Marks and Spencer followed by lunch in the Aubrey Arms, was on November 19 and the Christmas tree will be on display in Wesley Methodist Church from the beginning of December.

Come along to Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, at 2pm on December 10 and meet the members at their Christmas party.

For further information call Dilys on 01656 725399 or visit the website www.cobwebs.co.uk

Learning values

MISS Kerry Jones, the acting headteacher of Tynyrheol Primary School and staff have been discussing the importance of values with the children.

A list has been put in place and one value will be chosen each week. Last week it was Responsibility, which a child can achieve by completing homework, reading and tidying up etc.

Certificates were presented to the pupils who throughout the week consistently displayed this value. They were class 1 – Henley Dowling, class 2 – Darcey Bater, class 3 – Shae Woolcock.

This week it was Kindness, and certificates were presented in class 1 to Ava Dixon, class 2 – Morgan Bater, class 3 – Tygan Crocker.

Next week's value will be Respect.

Class 3 has taken part in a mini enterprise workshop. Pupils were split into companies and had to make decisions on products to make to sell at a mini enterprise fayre later in the term. This has taught the pupils valuable skills such as team work, communication skills and numeracy skills.

Pupils have also been able to buy a share in their company and will work out profit margins after the fayre, so they may even have made some money!

Author David Tossell spent time with class 2 reading the children stories and encouraged them to write their own stories, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

On December 2/3, classes 2 and 3 will be putting on a Christmas concert in the school hall at 2.30 pm.

The PTFA and management at the Richard Price Centre have arranged for a pantomime to come to Llangeinor. *Jack and the Beanstalk* will be performed in the centre on Friday, December 5 at 7pm. Tickets will be available from next week at £2.50 per child and £3 per adult, on sale in Llangeinor shop, the school and the centre.

All proceeds will be shared between the school and the centre.

Charity target

AT the Bryncethin Memorial Hall on the A4061, opposite the primary school, there will be a charity Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 29 from 12pm to 4pm, organised by Leanne Tomlin to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales.

Not only has this enterprising young lady organised this event, but in March next year she intends to go on an 84 kilometre trek through the Sahara Desert, again to raise money for the charity.

London date

CÔR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male voice choir) recently sang in the Speaker's apartment at the Houses of Parliament. While in London, the choir had also agreed to perform in a fundraising concert for Hampstead Free Church, at which £800 was raised.

The choir had also performed in the harvest supper at St Cynfelin's church, Caerau, where everyone enjoyed the evening of Welsh culture. It had also led the congregation in the hymn singing for a wedding in St Michael's church, Maesteg.

The choir rehearses at Maesteg Celtic Athletic Club on Thursdays at 7pm; new members welcome.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details:

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ TEL: 01656 725399 email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Church concert

ON Saturday, November 29 from 7.30pm to 9pm, at St Michael's and All Angel's Church, Maesteg, the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra will be performing in a concert to raise funds for the church.

The programme will include the *Shostakovitch Festival Overture, Brahms' Symphony No 3* and dances from *Checkmate*.

Tickets are £6 at the door, with free entrance for young people under 18.

Mynydd Cynfig WI

THE November meeting in Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill, saw a good turnout of members; some must have come by boat as the rain was relentless!

The meeting was chaired by Marjorie Goode, who welcomed the members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read out by Enid Rymer the minutes secretary, and agreed as correct by the members.

Christmas is a busy time and being in the WI is no different, preparing for the Christmas tree festival in Margam Orangery, organising a Christmas trip to Abby Cwm Hir, and making preparations for the Christmas party – and Marjorie is hosting a coffee and mince pie morning.

Next year is just as busy, with a flower arranging demonstration in Port Talbot, a guided walk in the City of Bristol, the Taste of Wales at Llanharry, and a service in Llandaff Cathedral.

Next year is also the 65th anniversary of the branch and the 100th anniversary of the National Federation, so everyone will be enjoying themselves.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Sally Maybey, her topic 'My Mastermind Experience' was entertaining; she was one of the few to have been invited to appear on the show twice.

The vote of thanks was given by Eirwen the secretary. The Christmas party is on Tuesday, December 9 at the Talbot Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill at 2.30pm and new members will be welcome.

Laleston WI

THE November meeting of Laleston WI was opened by president Margaret Aylen, who welcomed members and the minutes were read by secretary Diane Marshall.

Business included arrangements for the luncheon club at Poco Poco, Bridgend and the Book Club at Bridgend Library.

Menu choices were taken for the Christmas lunch at the Mason's Arms, Bryncethin on December 9.

The speaker, Mrs Ann Mahoney, was thanked for standing in at short notice when the original speaker was unable to attend.

The members were very impressed with Ann's demonstration of serviette folding and were encouraged to have a go themselves.

They went home with their samples of mitres, crowns, Fleur-des-lis, sailing boats and many more designs – their Christmas tables will look stunning this year!

A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Gwyneth Jenkins.

The next meeting is on December 4 at 7.15pm in Laleston Gardening Club, Cliff Cottage, High Street, Laleston, will be hosted by the committee, when members celebrate with the WI's Christmas party and carol singing.

Guests and new members are always welcome; for information, call Margaret on 01656 660384, or Diane on 656600.

Trelales concert

CÔR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) recently performed in a concert at Trelales Primary School to raise funds for the charity supporting sufferers of multiple sclerosis.

The hall was packed, which was nice on a very wet November evening.

The choir was accompanied by another choir from Maesteg, Take Note, which comprises of youngsters from the area, with its musical team of Richard Norton and Lisa Norbury.

Côr Meibion under musical director Rhian Jenkins, accompanied by Ryan Wood, sang traditional folk songs and hymns. This contrasted beautifully with the modern and well-rehearsed music of 'Take Note'.

Côr Meibion showed its versatility by singing a variety of music, including Robbie Williams' song 'Angels' and John Barrowman's 'Tell my Father' (both songs had been especially musically arranged for the choir by Ryan Wood).

The soloist was a young lady from Laleston, Sarah Bratton, who had the audience enthralled.

The two Maesteg choirs appeared on stage together, under the direction of Rhian Jenkins and sang a song from the musical show *Miss Saigon:* 'Bui Doi', which received a standing ovation from the audience and joined again to sing 'Anthem' from *Chess*.

The audience joined the choirs in singing the Welsh national anthem, 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

Côr Meibion is organising a Christmas buffet dance on Friday, December 12 in Maesteg Celtic Rugby Club; the music will be provided by the group 'Brother in Law' and members of the public are welcome. Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from any chorister or by contacting Rob on 07969 203251.

Côr Meibion rehearses in Maesteg Celtic Club on Thursday evenings from 7pm and new members will be welcome.

Wildlife Trust

VOLUNTEERS are required at Parc Slip nature reserve, to improve the habitat for wildlife on the reserve, namely the Lapwing which is an iconic farmland bird and has undergone a drastic decline in population as a result of loss of breeding habitat.

The aim is to reverse the decline at Parc Slip Nature Reserve, through a series of habitat creation and management projects.

Telephone Rose on 01656 724100 to register as a volunteer.

Tondu primary

The school was recently visited by the assessor for the Platignum Eco Schools award. He spent a large amount of time studying the work that is done with the children, which develops their understanding of sustainable development and global citizenship.

He was introduced by four pupils: Amy Brice-Richards, Ellie-Mai Davies, Eeva Salo and Joseph Williams and spoke to each class.

The assessor offered his congratulations before giving the Platinum Eco Schools award.

Carers and friends of children in Mrs Jones' class Cynffig are invited to join the class assembly tomorrow, Friday November 28 at 10.20am.

The Chaplin Theatre Company is visiting the school next Wednesday to perform in the pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. The head would appreciate a donation of £1.50 to help cover the cost and has thanked everyone for their donations towards the school effort in raising money for the BBC's Children in Need.

Ladies choir

CÔR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir) performed at BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) annual awards ceremony at the Heronstone Hotel.

It was the choir's way of thanking the organisation for the assistance it has provided in the past.

If any ladies would like to join the choir, go along to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Celtic Club, Garth, Maesteg.

Saint Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill

CHRISTMAS festivities start on Saturday, December 6 at 7pm. 'Step into Christmas' has tenor Greg Arthur and pianist Rob Marshall providing the entertainment. There will be mince pies and mulled wine available after the show.

Tickets cost £6 - obtainable on 01656 742703, at Theo's charity shop or at the door.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 4)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
27 Thur	09.26	9.5	21.52	9.2
28 Fri	10.16	9.1	22.44	8.8
29 Sat	11.11	8.8	23.42	8.4
30 Sun			12.25	8.5
01 Mon	00.57	8.4	13.39	8.5
02 Tues	02.11	8.4	14.43	8.7
03 Wed	03.21	8.9	15.44	9.1
04 Thur	04.10	9.3	16.39	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Rugby friends conquer Kilimanjaro – and raise funds for cancer charity

FOUR Kenfig Hill rugby players have conquered the world's highest free-standing mountain – to raise vital funds for the Welsh prostate charity, Prostate Cymru.

The pals, Chris Leyshon (22), Ben Jones (22), Michael Guy (29), and Stephen Smith (34) tackled Kilimanjaro, which at 5,895 metres (19,341 ft) above sea level, was the hardest challenge they have encountered, "both physically and mentally".

On the final day of the summit climb they left camp at midnight, arriving at the top at around 7am, in temperatures of around minus 15. The team's camel packs and drinks froze, meaning there was a considerably limited water supply until sunrise.

In the 10 months leading up to the event, the rugby union team reached a phenomenal total of £21,592 raised for the charity. While training for this adventure, they organised a large number of fundraising events, including everything from bucket collections to a 'Ladies Night'.

The group also organised 'The Big Walk', from the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff to Kenfig Hill RFC (29 miles), and a Sevens touch rugby tournament. Both occasions were excellent fundraisers, with £9,000 raised on the day of the Big Walk alone, and plans are in place to make the fundraisers annual events in the future.

The four friends have received "incredible support" from the local community and have produced a video showcasing the events with good luck messages from footballer Matt Le Tissier and the cast of *Stella*.

Kenfig Hill RFC has been a staunch supporter of Prostate Cymru since its inception – thanks to Prostate Cymru patron and ex-Cardiff RFC rugby player Ray Giles, who inspired the boys to undertake this challenge.

To prepare for the big climb in Tanzania, the rugby boys trained on Wales' highest peaks, Snowdon, Pen Y Fan, and Cadair Idris. They also attended the gym up to five times a week and trained twice a week with their rugby squad.

Leader of the expedition Chris Leyshon said: "We're all so proud to have undertaken the challenge of climbing Kilimanjaro for such a worthy charity. It was emotional for many who reached the top of Uhuru peak, the highest summit point and was an experience I will never forget.

"The views were unbelievable and to think that all the hard work we put into the fundraising had paid off towards the effort we put in to reach the top. We're over the moon with the support we've received along the way."

Prostate Cymru is mainly a voluntary group dedicated to fighting Prostate Cancer, procuring equipment and raising awareness throughout Wales. Founded in 2003, it has grown from strength to strength over the last decade holding events, fundraisers, procuring services and equipment, raising awareness and lobbying for improvements in men's prostate healthcare.

Left to right: Ben Jones , Stephen Smith , Michael Guy and Chris Leyshon.

Man attacked

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"Mr Edwards has very little recollection of the incident. He was seen curled up on the ground being kicked. His woman friend became hysterical, believing he had been killed."

In addition to being kicked, said Mr Warren, he was struck with a length of wood.

She was shouting: "Stop it, stop it, you're killing him."

Later, added Mr Warren, Heaton said: "I think I've killed somebody. I kicked him in the head and I feel terrible."

Mr Edwards was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital, where he was treated for a broken ankle, cuts to the head and swellings and bruising to the face.

In a victim impact statement, Mr Edwards said: "I am in total shock as to why it happened." He said he had been housebound for 12 weeks, and was treated in hospital on 10 occasions.

He said he also suffered short term memory problems, his self confidence had suffered, he had become a changed person and wanted to move from the area. He added that the attack had wrecked his life and he was awaiting a brain scan.

Heaton's counsel, Alex Greenwood, said: "He knows the seriousness of these matters.

The case has caused him great trauma. Sadly, there are many significant aggravating features."

He said he struck out in the heat of the moment, believing he was going to the assistance of his brother.

Mr Greenwood pointed out the victim was 6'6" tall, and weighed 20 stone.

Cannabis plants were grown in Maesteg

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

CANNABIS plants with a potential yield worth up to £17,850 were found when police searched a house in Maesteg, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

James Samuel (34) of Woodstock, Llangeinor, was jailed for six months, the sentence suspended for 12 months, and ordered to carry out 225 hours unpaid work.

He had been convicted by Bridgend Magistrates of being concerned in the production of cannabis, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Nicholas Gedge said that on May 1, police carried out a search at an address in Station Road, Maesteg, where Samuel was then living.

Inside two tents, were growing 17 cannabis plants.

There was also the required paraphernalia including lamps and watering facilities.

The plants were up to 14 weeks old, said Mr Gedge. When arrested, Samuel admitted growing the drugs from seeds bought on the internet and said: "I've been caught red-handed."

He admitted he had a heavy cannabis habit. On his mobile phone were a series of messages indicating he had been supplying cannabis, said Mr Gedge.

"Inevitably, there was a commercial element to the case," he said.

Samuel's counsel, Janet Gedrich, said: "He suffered depression for some years, and smoked cannabis for relief. He accepts he would have sold some of the drug."

She said such behaviour was out of character, and following his arrest, his life had changed direction by returning home and undergoing counselling.

By September, she said, he had become free of drugs.

Said Recorder Timothy Petts: "The potential value of these drugs was significant."

MINISTER PRAISES LABORATORY

HEALTH Minister Mark Drakeford AM has praised the work of a Bridgend-based laboratory which plays a crucial role in making sure the Welsh NHS has access to the safest medical devices.

He toured the Welsh Government-funded Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory (SMTL) at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

The laboratory has recently been testing hosiery and compression devices to treat lymphoedema – a swelling which develops as a result of an impaired lymphatic system which either hasn't developed properly or has been damaged.

'Beware bogus callers' warning

LOCAL Trading Standards officers and South Wales Police are warning residents to watch out for bogus officials calling at their homes.

There have been reports of two unrelated incidents in the county borough within the space of a few days. In the first incident, the caller claimed to be from the council's Environmental Health Department and told the householder that he was there to deal with a rat problem.

Fortunately, the resident shut the door and alerted the authorities. Subsequent checks with the pest control contractor used by the local authority confirmed that this was indeed a bogus call.

In the second incident, a resident received a visit on a Friday night from a person claiming to be from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. Again it was established that this was not a genuine call.

BCBC Leader Coun Mel Nott said: "Bogus callers most commonly claim to be from a utility company, the local authority or the Police in order to con their way into someone's home. Their aim will often be distraction burglary and the recent examples we have seen illustrate the range of methods that these tricksters will employ to get through the front door."

Call goes out for the elves!

ON Saturday, December 13, Bridgend is again looking to set a new world record at the annual gathering of 'elves' and is calling on the public for help.

Last year, a record number of 1,500 elves assembled in Bridgend.

"There's going to be activities and entertainment for the whole family throughout the day, and all you've got to do is turn up wearing a red or green jumper and you'll be given your very own elf hat!" a spokesman said.

"So why not transform yourself into a Christmas Elf this December and break a world record in the process?"

For full information, visit: http://www.bridgendbites.com/event.aspx?e=265485.

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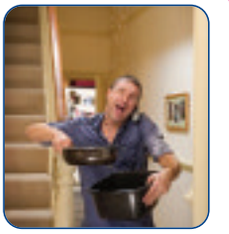

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Midwife who went the extra mile is honoured with a top caring award

Kelly Gittins, her daughter Evelyn, and midwife Victoria Owens.

A PORTHCAWL midwife from Porthcawl who helped a new mother overcome her struggles has been awarded a prestigious accolade for going beyond the call of duty.

Facing a daily battle to get her new-born baby daughter to breastfeed successfully, Kelly Gittins, had all but accepted it would never happen, until she met Victoria Owens who provided support for Kelly (31) from North Cornelly as part of a service provided by the Welsh Government's Flying Start programme.

Now Victoria (37) has been named regional winner for Cardiff and south east Wales in the inaugural 'Stars In Their Lives' award, which highlights the contribution made to children in their crucial early years by Flying Start professionals across Wales including health visitors, midwives, parenting, early language specialists, and other childcare and development workers.

Victoria scooped the top spot for her region alongside three other outstanding Flying Start workers from Swansea and West Wales, Mid Wales and North Wales, who were also regional winners for their outstanding dedication to giving children a flying start in life.

Victoria said: "I'm so surprised to have been nominated – being a first time parent is daunting for anyone and I am so glad I was able to provide Kelly the support she needed.

"Awards like this highlight the great work being done by Flying Start workers all over Wales, not just here, and the need for parenting support generally."

Kelly, now mother to one-year-old Evelyn, said: "I couldn't have done it without Vicki; she has always gone the extra mile for me – visiting me in her work breaks and never letting me give up.

"She encouraged me to attend Flying Start group sessions when I didn't want to leave the house, and I have always been able to share my feelings with her. I'm so glad she has got the recognition she deserves."

First Minister leads Hallowe'en walk for popular local charity

Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan

The First Minister being welcomed at the Kenfig National Nature Reserve Centre.

Receiving a pre-walk pep talk from David Carrington.

WITH a good turnout of walkers, many in fancy dress, the fifth annual 'Touched by Cancer' Hallowe'en walk across the sand dunes of Kenfig National Nature Reserve was started and led this year by Wales' First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

Started in 2010 by Coun Megan Butcher with the support of Adrian Morgan and Douglas 'Lopper' Wilson, the Touched by Cancer annual Hallowe'en walk drew in many volunteers for both walking and behind the scenes support.

As usual, there was great enthusiasm among the walkers to outdo each other with a fantastic selection of fancy dress costumes. These ranged from vampires to witches, Dracula to zombies and skeletons to other unmentionable characters. A really good turnout for Hallowe'en.

As well as the First Minister, the event was supported by the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Liz Singer, and the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas. The weather was very kind on the day, enabling David Carrington, the warden of the Kenfig National Nature Reserve, to lead the walkers into the wilderness and sands of the Kenfig National Nature Reserve to Sker Beach, and then return to the Prince of Wales, Kenfig, where a hog roast was waiting.

To date, the Touched by Cancer Hallowe'en walks has raised £35,000 for various charitable bodies, including Sandville, Velindre, Latch and Macmillan.

Coun Butcher thanked David Brace for sponsoring the walk, Gareth Maund of the Prince of Wales for the hog roast and refreshments, donations from various businesses.

She added: "This year, we have had pledges of £6,000 so far. Thank you to everyone who walked or helped with the event."

The First Minister meeting some of the walkers.

Coun Butcher with volunteers.

High Sheriff Liz Singer and Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas.

LOCAL CHARITY FUNDRAISES WITH NORTH CORNELLY FASHION SHOW

Coun Megan Butcher thanking M/C Robin Griffiths and Lynn Smith, all the volunteers and attendees for their support.

Report and photographs by ***Keith E Morgan***

Abigail Harris sang at the fashion show.

A fashion show organised by Lynn Smith, entitled 'Second Hand Rose', in North Cornelly Community Centre, raised funds for Coun Megan Butcher's 'Touched by Cancer' charity.

With Master of Ceremonies Robin Griffiths in charge, it turned out to be a very successful event; a sell-out with about 150 people attending.

A catwalk had been set up in the centre by Adrian Morgan and his team of volunteers and decorated with illuminated strip lighting.

All the fashion models, including the children, were local volunteers with the clothes being donated or sold by Lynn on a percentage basis.

There were all makes and sizes of clothes on display with something to suit everyone. Lynn has recently opened a local shop called 'Geneses' where one can take clothes in good condition either to donate or to be sold for a fee.

Coun Megan Butcher thanked Lynn Smith for organising the fashion show, M/C Robin Griffiths, all the models and behind the scenes volunteers Adrian Morgan, Gareth Maund of The Prince of Wales, and all those who turned out to support the event.

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LOCAL VOLUNTEERS ARE HONOURED

Chris Podmore received his certificate from Huw Irranca-Davies.

John Mackenzie (Tŷ Elis) with Mark Standley (right) of award sponsor Handelsbanken

Daniel Matthews with Ann Lloyd of Graham Paulu Accountants.

Dennis Jones (Tondu Robins AFC) with Paul Whapham (right) of Halo Leisure.

Ruth Weltch with Nicola Stockford

Bridgend Foodbank with Lesley Poulton of award sponsor United Graphic Design

Enid Carroll received her certificate from Janice Gragory AM.

Leigh Forman (Bryngarw Country Park) with Mark Franklin on behalf of award sponsor Merthyr Mawr Estate

Margaret MacIntyre with BAVO Trustee Steve Driscoll

Sarah Boswell-Jones (Scope Community Café Project) with Steve Curry

CH recognition of the significant contribution volunteers make to our community, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO), was delighted to recently hold their second Bridgend County Borough Volunteer Awards at the Heronston Hotel in Bridgend.

Compèred by Mark Franklin from Bridge FM, special guests included Janice Gregory AM, Huw Irranca Davies MP and Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi.

Volunteers take on a wide range of tasks, giving up their time to make their community a better place, yet often receiving little, if any recognition for their commitment and energy. The awards were designed to recognise and honour outstanding people and organisations that have made a significant contribution to our community in the last year.

Huw Irranca Davies MP said: "It was an honour to present awards to local people and organisations who are our real unsung heroes. The immense efforts of volunteers deserve our praise and recognition, because without them, our communities would be poorer places. They make life so much better, in so many ways, for so many people."

The award winners were: *Daniel Matthews (Young Adult Carer Voice Group) Volunteer of the Year Award under 25 (sponsored by Graham Paul); Dennis Jones (Tondu Robins AFC) Sports Volunteer of the Year Award (sponsored by Halo Leisure); Sarah Boswell-Jones (Scope Community Café Project) Befriending/Mentoring Volunteer Award (sponsored by Valleys to Coast); Ruth Weltch (New Pathways) Volunteer of the Year Award over 25 (sponsored by Merthyr and the Valleys Mind); Margaret MacIntyre (Home Start, Bridgend) Trustee of the Year Award; Leigh Forman (Bryngarw Country Park) Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award (sponsored by Merthyr Mawr Estate); Bridgend Foodbank Volunteer Project of the Year Award (sponsored by United Graphic Design); John Mackenzie (Tŷ Elis) Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award (sponsored by Handelsbanken).*

Bridgend County Borough Volunteer Awards 'Highly Commended' certificates were presented by Janice Gregory AM to Enid Carroll (Llynfi Valley Credit Union), Joyce Chambers (Trinity Care and Support), Jamie Evans (Pencoed Gymnastic Tumbling Club), Michelle Fryer (Tondu Primary School), Simon Green (Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People), Shannon Heard (AYPD), Stuart John (The Wallich), Fiona Morris (Tŷ Elis), Teresa McGuire (Alzheimer's Society Bridgend and District), Bryony Webster (Home Start, Bridgend), Jodie Williams (Young Adult Carer Voice Group), New Pathways and Stroke Association community groups.

Individuals were also presented their 'Highly Commended' certificates for WCVA's Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards 2014.

These awards celebrate the inspirational volunteering carried out by individuals and groups who give up their time to improve the lives of people living in Wales.

Presented by Huw Irranca Davies MP, certificate winners were Marcia Barry and Alex Williams (Tenovus), Rebeckah Thomas (Moving Forward Project – SOVA) and Deborah Jane Thomas and Chris Podmore (Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme).

Confusion over waiting times

AT a meeting with Jane Hutt AM at Cowbridge Town Hall on November 15, I raised the question of the long waiting times for treatment in the NHS.

The two specific cases raised were the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, where the follow-up appointments in the eye clinic are 18 months behind.

The other was the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, where the waiting time for knee and hip replacements is approximately 51 weeks. Jane Hutt was very helpful and promised to do what she could to help.

This is at odds with the Health Minister Mark Drakeford, who in a recent TV interview with Jamie Owen, stated the waiting time for knee and hip operations is currently 15 weeks.

I challenge the Health Minister to publish a list of Welsh Hospitals where the waiting list is only 15 weeks for these operations.

My partner, Mrs Roberts, has been on the waiting list for a knee replacement for 25 weeks to date.

In a letter from Paul Roberts, the Chief Executive of the University Health Board dated September 10, he clearly stated that the waiting time is approximately 52 weeks.

Mr Drakeford, where are you getting your figures from?

M T Hopkins

Tabernacl concert

TABERNACL Music Society's Christmas concert will be held on Friday, December 5 at 7pm under the direction of its new conductor, Matthew Nash, a graduate of Bristol University with a First Class BA Honours degree and an MA (distinction) in music.

A freelance musician in Bridgend, he is musical director of Llantrisant Male Voice Choir and piano teacher at St Clare's, Porthcawl. The choir's new accompanist, Rhian Jenkins, is head of music at Pencoed Comprehensive School.

The choir's programme includes Rutter's 'Gloria', choruses from Handel's 'Messiah', carols old and new in Welsh and English, and congregational carols.

Also taking part is the choir from Ysgol Gynradd Garth Olwg (Church Village) conducted by Anna Rogers and accompanied by Elin Howard.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to 'Cariad', a charity chosen by the children's choir, which provides defibrillators for schools in Wales, together with training in their use for teaching staff.

Tickets £8, children free, are available on the door, from choir members or from the secretary on 07974 765578. The venue is Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend CF31 1LH.

The choir welcomes new members – no formal audition. See www.cor-tabernacl-choir.co.uk.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Justin Griffiths – **Land adjacent 11 Carn Wen, Broadlands** – Double garage (to serve no. 11) with self contained flat above (existing single garage to support new flat).

Mr A Olding – **The Shieling, Carlton Place, Porthcawl** – Minor amendment to approval P/13/785/FUL to convert garage into a habitable room.

Mrs Bethan Dalton-Marshall – **Fforchlas Cottage, Pontycymer** – Timber clad rear extension to create new bedrooms.

TEDS Development Ltd – **Former night club, Castle Street, Maesteg** – Change of use of existing building to retail (A1 use class) and associated works.

Mr Viv Hughes – **Land north of Bryngarw Farm, Abergarw, Brynmenyn** – Provision of 26 building plots and access road and removal of modern type barn.

Mr Jason Jones – **1 Parcau Road, Bridgend** – Retrospective application for replacment shed.

Mr Kevin Thorne – **Hendre Post Farm, Blackmill** – Steel framed building as storage for agricultural machinery, livestock and feed.

Porthcawl Museum – **The Old Police Station, John Street, Porthcawl** – Secure three information panels to rear courtyard wall.

Mr Nigel England – **54 Cowbridge Raod, Bridbgend** – Convert single dwelling into two self-contained flats.

Mr Adrian Cross – **16 Woodlands Rise, Bridgend** – Amendment to P/14/516/FUL to alter position of rear patio door to allow one additional rear window.

Mr H Lovett and Ms E Humphreys – **30 Wyndham Crescent, Bridgend** – Loft conversion and rear single storey extension.

Mr Ian Washbourne – **1 Rest Bay Close, Porthcawl** – Replace existing flat roof over single storey section with pitched tiled roof to provide additional roof space.

Mr Richard Jones – **Fernhollows, Glynogwr, Blackmill** – First floor extension above existing side garage.

BUILDING STANDARDS PRAISE AT NATIONAL AWARD CEREMONY

RIGHT: Mike Little, senior community liason officer at Leadbitter; Gaynor Thomas, senior project manager at BCBC; Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities; David Todd-Jones, team leader building control at BCBC; Howard Monson senior project manager at Leadbitter, and Meryl Morgan, technical administrative assistant, building control at BCBC.

HIGH quality construction work carried out in Bridgend county borough has been recognised at the National Local Authority Building Control Awards 2014 in London.

After winning the award for 'Best Educational Building' in the Wales leg of the accolades, Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen was among those in the running for a national honour.

Unfortunately, the Ynysawdre school narrowly missed out against strong competition, but was shortlisted after its builders 'Leadbitter' and 'Scott Brownrigg Architects' were praised for their design which has achieved the highest environmental standards and particularly low energy demands thanks to the use of the latest technology.

Jeremy White from Llanmoor Homes was also representing Bridgend County Borough at the national awards as a finalist in the category for 'Best Site Agent'. Jeremy was acclaimed for the meticulous way that he maintains his building sites and the quality he always expects from his tradesmen, but he too narrowly missed out on the top prize.

Coun Phil White, Bridgend county borough council's cabinet member for communities, said: "Both Jeremy White and the team behind Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen have done tremendously well to have made it on to the shortlist at the national awards.

They were up against extremely strong competition, but deserved to be in that company.

"A huge amount of innovation and creativity is consistently demonstrated by contractors, designers and the council's building control surveyors and I would like to congratulate everyone who has been involved.

"The Local Authority Building Control Awards celebrate and encourage quality standards of building work and the council will soon be considering which schemes to put forward for the next round of awards in 2015."

SUPERMARKETS AND THE PUBS...

THERE has been much press comment about the UK Government's Small Business Bill in the House of Commons last week, and possible positive and negative effects of the proposed legislation on the tied pub trade and the tenants of pubs owned by the pub companies such as Punch and Enterprise.

However, the real problem resulting in pub closures continues to be the price at which beer is sold in the supermarkets.

Today, I purchased four 500ml bottles of my favourite bottled condition beer, 6.5 per cent ABV, in my local supermarket for £5. This equates to £1.42 per pint.

At lunchtime, I met friends for our weekly pint and chat in my local, pubco tied inn. The cost of a pint of cask ale, 4.00 per cent ABV, was £3.30. This is by no means above the norm for this area, and is way below that in many London pubs, but is the price required by the pubcos and necessary to ensure that the landlord has an even basic living standard.

Until this huge disparity between supermarket prices, and those that tenant landlords of the pubcos have to apply, the ongoing closure of our local pubs across the nation will sadly continue.

Dr David Hawkridge, Ogmore by Sea.

Bridgend set to welcome Santa Claus!

THE reindeers are raring to go and Santa Claus' sleigh is being stocked full of presents ready for him to fly in to Bridgend town centre on Saturday, November 29 to kick-start this year's festive celebrations.

Santa will be making his entrance in Wyndham Street at 11am and his trusty reindeers will remain outside until 3pm.

Bridgend singer Chris Shalders will be switching on the town's Christmas lights outside Barclays Bank on Dunraven Place at 4.30pm, and Chris will also be entertaining the crowds withthree songs.

He will be covering 'Love Runs Out' by One Republic and 'Glad You Came' by The Wanted, as well as his own song 'Right Time'.

Santa's Grotto in Carnegie House on Wyndham Street will open on Saturday, November 29 between 12pm and 4pm, and he will also be there from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays December 6, 13 and 20. Entry to the grotto will cost £5 and includes a gift.

Families will also be able to ride the Christmas Express road train around the town centre on Saturday, December 6 between 10.30am and 4pm, while 'little helpers' are invited to go to Adare Street on Saturday, December 13 at 1pm for the Bridgend Elfsteddfod and another attempt at the word record for gathering the most elves in one place.

Each participant will be given an elf hat, but please wear a green or red jumper if possible.

Bridgend County Borough Council Leader Mel Nott said: "These events promise to add a lot of fun and excitement to the festive season and I would like to thank our partners Bridgend Town Council and Bridge FM for their support in putting the events together.

Traders are also getting into the spirit and a competition is being held to see which store has the best dressed Christmas window."

Shoppers are also advised that there will be free car parking in the council-run car parks after 2pm from December 8–14 and after 10am from December 15–24.

The Great Wall of Coed y Bwl!

ON a dark and stormy night last autumn, gale force winds off the Bristol Channel hit Coed-y-Bwl Reserve in Castle-upon-Alun with enough force to bring down a 25 foot section of perimeter wall – sending chunks of limestone rolling down the precious wild daffodil slope, leaving a trail of debris and in their wake.

ABOVE: The wall of Coed y Bwl.

Volunteers were quickly on the case – assessing the damage and planning repairs. Employing a stone mason – at great cost – was ruled out in favour of a DIY rebuild by our resident weekend workers.

Habitat management and general maintenance, were put on hold while the team set to work, sorting the stone into suitable piles before their first attempt at dry-stone walling.

Starting with a solid foundation, the team began the jig-saw task of fitting hundreds of broken pieces together.

Permission was granted by the neighbouring tenant farmer to cut through a disused footpath to reach the site – at the highest point of the reserve.

Sand and cement – needed to bind the foundations – were hauled up the hill by hand, along with river water to fill a garden butt. What seemed an impossible task at first began to take shape.

Today, the wall is back – ready to stand the test of time and those stormy nights ahead. A few coping stones will fall into place before the job is finished.

Warden Richard Marks commented: "It was a tough job and a huge challenge – but the teamwork spurred everyone on to finish in amazing time.

"Thanks are due to our dedicated volunteers – with their great sense of humour on Sunday mornings." **LM**

Project for elderly receives praise

THE *Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team has visited a project providing vital support and friendship to people on a housing complex in Bridgend.*

The Commissioner's team joined residents of Cwrt Gwalia on Aber Road in Ogmore Vale for their weekly get-together at a community café run by Crossroads Care Bridgend.

Around 15 people who live at the complex meet at the café to enjoy lunch together, gain advice on a wide range of topics and catch up on the local news and gossip.

The Commissioner, Sarah Rochira, said: "The Crossroads Care community café is a wonderful example of an initiative that is bringing older people together to enjoy lunch with each other and get involved in various social activities.

"While many of the group may be neighbours, they don't necessarily get lots of opportunities to socialise together, meaning that without the café, some may be at risk of bec

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Christmas Fayre & Santa's grotto

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It's a Brynteg walkover in Rotary debate!

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend held its Senior Youth Speaks competition at Brynteg Comprehensive School on Thursday, November 20.

This year, only two teams entered this stage of the competition, both from Brynteg Comprehensive School.

There was an intermediate team consisting of three year-8 students: chairperson Megan MacKenzie-Sheran, speaker Halle Blesoe and a vote of thanks by Dylan Thomas. The topic for the speaker was 'Should Welsh be Mandatory in Schools?'

The adjudicating panel, Liz Sumner, Will McAllister and Allan Jones, judged the performance as encouraging with much promise for the future.

The senior team was chairperson Thomas Prosser, speaker Connor Lomax from year-13 and a late stand-in for the vote of thanks, Lowry Morrison year-10. The topic for the speaker was 'Should the Global Community be Making a Greater Contribution to Prevent the Spread of Ebola?'

The adjudicating panel judged the team as having put up a very fine performance, especially Thomas Prosser. Rotary president Sue Cassidy said: "It is wonderful to see such passion, enthusiasm, intelligence and talent from the young people of Bridgend.

" It is a pity that more schools did not take up the offer to enter teams in the competition, but I understand the pressure on staff and students at this time of year.

"Both teams showed that they had thoroughly researched their subjects, offering their views in an articulated, confident and clear way. I wish both teams the very best of luck in the area finals."

Both teams will now move on to compete in the District 1150 Area 7 finals. **WM**

The senior team.

The intermediate team.

The judges.

CANDLE SERVICE

ON December 7 at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, the local committee for Cancer Research will be holding their annual Lovelight candle service at 4pm, when people are invited to light a candle for love-hope-peace.

Also taking part are Sounds Familiar and the children of Mynddyd Cynffig Junior School choir. Contact 01656 784762.

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Audience captured by Pirates!

Left to right: Roger Hudd, musical director; Mrs Yvonne Hudd; Andrew Griffiths, stage director; David Newton Williams, President.

A ROUSING overture set the tone for a wonderfully joyful production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Over the years, audiences have come to expect a high standard of entertainment from The Mid Glamorgan Savoyards, and this year's concert topped them all.

From the opening scene of swashbuckling pirates wielding cutlasses with gusto and enthusiasm, to the finale of policemen, pirates and maidens, the evening fairly zipped along. Pirate King John Sadler, the baddie with the soft heart, sang his way into our hearts too, as did Frederic (Layton Skilton), torn between the world of piracy and nobility, but bowing to the dictates of 'duty'.

Heroine Mabel (Bronwen Beckett) delighted with her strong, beautiful voice, the Policemen milked every opportunity for farce, and the Major General (Rob Reynolds) showed what a model of modernity he was, by arriving onstage on a scooter.

There was an extra treat for the audience: the inclusion of two choral pieces from the original version, performed at the premier nights in Paignton and New York but not often sung since. Both 'Poetry' and 'Queen Victoria' were dutifully hailed, and it gave the whole cast the opportunity to showcase their musical ability. They were powerful, polished pieces.

Congratulations must go to the musical director, Roger Hudd; stage director, Andrew Griffiths, and the orchestra, some of whom had only met for rehearsal on the afternoon of the performance and of course the cast.

Many more people backstage work for the success of these annual events, and it's a tribute to their hard work that the Grand Pavilion saw almost a full house; nearly 500 seats taken by 7pm.

All proceeds go to charity; this year the beneficiaries are the Save The Children Fund, the Royal British Legion and Macmillan Cancer Support.

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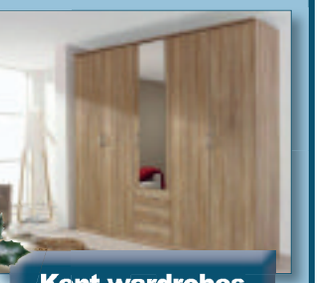

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£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for November 20, 2014 is:

ALISON BLACKWELL

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Congratulations, Alison!

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HOW THE ARTS CAN HELP KEEP MEMORIES OF HEROES ALIVE

RIGHT: Coun Gwyn John, photographer Jon Pountney, Mayor Coun Howard Hamilton, Jane Hutt AM, ceramicist Tracey Baker and arts development officer Tracey Harding.

ON November 15, the Vale Council's Art Gallery, Art Central, launched its 'Remembering the Great War' exhibition.

Guests were welcomed by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Howard Hamilton, who led a minute of silence to reflect on those lives affected by War, before introducing the exhibiting artists and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution display 'Hope in the Great War'.

Vale councillor Gwyn John said: "As the cabinet member for arts and culture, I have developed a good understanding about the arts and how they can have a significant and positive impact on our lives.

"This exhibition reminds us of the millions of men and women who fought and gave their lives during the Great War and indeed subsequent wars.

"Curated by the council's arts development service, the exhibition hosts a number of talented artists, and has arrived at a time of great significance, with 2014 marking the beginning of a four-year centenary of the First World War."

Cardiff-based photographer, Jon Pountney, who has documented the First World War memorials and monuments across the Vale using a German Voigtlander camera, said: "The camera once belonged to my grandfather, given to him by an Italian prisoner of war during World War Two. My grandfather died soon after the war from subsequent over-work and exhaustion, but I am proud to be able to use this camera in recording and remembering both my grandfather and those who gave their lives."

Ceramicist Tracey Baker's work explores the life of the often overlooked war horse, which had an average life span of only six weeks on the front during the First World War, with both sides losing over eight million horses in total during the four years of conflict.

Local artist Susan Grover has on show a handmade montage 'Brothers in Arms' which tells the moving story of her father and his two brothers, who all fought during The Great War.

Digital storytelling artist Katrina Kirkwood is exhibiting her project 'Isabella and the String of Beads' in remembrance of her grandmother, one of the few female doctors serving on the front during the First World War, which saw visitors to the gallery and library create an entire strand of colourful strings of DNA using decorated beads.

The exhibition 'Remembering the Great War' will be in Art Central until January 3 and entry is free. The gallery is open to the public from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

Ringo likes to 'Beatle' off!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

RINGO is a German Shepherd Cross and although nine years old, is still a very lively chap, with a warm and gentle nature.

He mixes nicely with other dogs and enjoys a run in the field, but his recall may need some work.

He is quite an independent chap, but will have a cuddle now and then. He is popular with the volunteers and enjoys long walks with them.

Ringo is used to doing his own thing and was in the habit of escaping from the garden in his previous home due to boredom, so we will be sure to rehome him to someone with a very secure garden!

Ringo will need time to settle in, but we feel he will be a rewarding companion for someone. He can live with children 14 years and over.

If you can offer Ringo the home he is looking for, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12 – 4pm every day except Monday.

Linda Feagan (Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Volunteers are needed for over-50s health plan

AGE Cymru, the Welsh charity for older people, is looking for volunteers to help in the Vale with a programme called 'Add To Your Life'.

'Add To Your Life' is a free online health check set up to help over-50s to look at their own health and take steps to feel better and stay healthy and active.

Age Cymru is supporting this NHS Wales programme in the Vale and needs volunteers to deliver it.

Contact Margot Deveraux – Age Cymru's healthy ageing volunteer co-ordinator on 029 2043 1555 or email ageingwell@agecymru.org.uk.

Further information about 'Add To Your Life' is available on Age Cymru's website – www.agecymru.org.uk/addtoyourlife.

Homeless dog owners helped by Dogs Trust

DOGS TRUST, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, will be delivering a record number of gifts to homeless people with dogs this Christmas as requests from homelessness projects across the UK have increased by more than 12 per cent, up from 1,050 parcels last year to 1,180 this year.

As demand for the Christmas hampers has doubled since 2010, Dogs Trust is asking the public to spread a little Christmas joy and buy a present for a dog in need.

The charity will be delivering gifts to homelessness projects in Wales for more than 90 dogs.

Every Christmas, through its Hope Project, the charity brings some festive cheer for homeless owners and their dogs by distributing canine hampers of collars, leads, coats, treats and toys to dogs and their owners.

The charity set up the Hope Project in 1995 to support dogs whose owners are homeless or living in temporary accommodation and to offer free and subsidised veterinary treatment throughout the year.

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Nathaniel (aged 2) and family's £1,300 thank you to hospital

A PENARTH family has raised more than £1,300 after completing a hiking challenge to thank staff at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Nathaniel Goodhew was born more than two months prematurely and spent the first five weeks of his life in the hospital's special care baby unit.

His mum Esther, dad Robert, brother Tom and sister Angharad wanted to give something back to the unit, not just for the tremendous care Nathaniel received but for the way they were all so well looked after.

Over two days, they walked in shifts from their home in the Vale to the Bridgend hospital, covering around 41 miles in total.

Esther and Tom did sections of the journey together, with Robert and Angharad walking the remainder.

They swapped around on the second day – with all the family, including young Nathaniel himself, finishing the final leg together.

Esther said: "The weather was horrid on Saturday morning but not too bad in the afternoon and on Sunday – until just before we arrived at the hospital when the heavens opened.

Journey's end: the family arrive at Princess of Wales Hospital.

"It was wet and windy at times but if it had been beautiful and sunny the walk wouldn't have been the challenge it was meant to be."

In November 2011, Nathaniel was born at Princess of Wales Hospital by emergency Caesarean nine weeks prematurely.

Esther said: "There were some complications. Nathaniel was very unwell and we owe his life to the medical staff who cared for him during those difficult weeks."

Nathaniel was in the SCBU for just under six weeks. He had been home for three days when he became poorly and had to spend 10 days on the children's ward before he could come home again.

But it wasn't just about the care Nathaniel received. Esther said the way staff had looked after the entire family was fantastic – especially Tom and Angharad, who were aged 11 and 10 when their brother was born.

It made a huge difference at a difficult time and left the children with some very special memories of their first Christmas with their little brother.

That care and consideration continued when the family arrived at Princess of Wales Hospital at the end of their walk – all wearing T-shirts made especially for the occasion.

Esther said: "The children were taken up to the SCBU and given hot chocolate and a present each to thank them, which was incredibly kind. They were really touched and it was a very special end to an emotional weekend."

Nathaniel, who will be three on November 28 and starts nursery at Penarth's Albert Primary School in January, is a happy, healthy little boy. He joined his family for the last mile from Bridgend town centre to the hospital.

So far, the walk has raised more than £1,300, with more coming in, with the money going to the unit's endowment fund to improve facilities for parents.

Esther said: "We have been overwhelmed by people's generosity, kindness and support, and want to say a huge thank you to everyone. It was an amazing experience."

Anyone who wants to donate can do so via https://www.justgiving.com/Robert-Goodhew.

AM highlights the battle against pancreatic cancer

DAVID MELDING, Assembly Member for South Wales Central, sponsored a reception to mark November's Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month at the Welsh Assembly.

The reception, organised by Pancreatic Cancer UK, brought together patients, family members, clinicians treating the disease, researchers studying ways to diagnose pancreatic cancer at an earlier stage and representatives of other cancer charities operating in Wales.

The aim of the event was to increase awareness of pancreatic cancer during the month.

In Wales, pancreatic cancer is the sixth biggest cause of cancer death, with 487 cases diagnosed, and 440 deaths recorded in 2012.

Five-year survival rates in Wales are just 3.4 per cent.

Speaking after the reception, Mr Melding said: "I was pleased to be able to help raise awareness of pancreatic cancer by sponsoring an event in the Assembly.

David Melding AM with Alex Ford, of Pancreatic Cancer UK.

"It was good to meet with people who have direct experience of the disease, to learn more about pancreatic cancer and what needs to be done to change the shockingly low survival rates.

"As I said in my speech, I discovered a lot and I hope that we will see more action in future to improve early diagnosis into the disease so more patients are diagnosed at a stage when curative surgery is still an option."

Alex Ford, CEO of Pancreatic Cancer UK commented: "Pancreatic cancer has the worst survival outcomes of any of the most common cancers and we need to do more to improve pancreatic cancer awareness, diagnosis, research, treatment and care across Wales and the rest of the UK.

"Pancreatic Cancer UK is grateful to David Melding for helping us to spread the message to his colleagues in the Welsh Assembly.

"We hope that with increased political awareness will come positive and practical change for patients and their families in the future."

Local company sponsors blood delivery service

BLOOD BIKES Wales (BBW) is now operating in the Vale area and has been given a donation by Dow Corning.

The donation has allowed BBW to buy Hi-Vis jackets and specialist bags for their motorcycles (above).

Anyone living near Llandough Hospital may have seen the riders on one of Blood Bikes' specialist fleet over a weekend. The volunteer rider will have been delivering samples to the pathology laboratory.

BBW provides services to a number of NHS Trusts using volunteer co-ordinators and riders. They complete various shifts, starting at 7pm on a Friday evening through to midnight on a Sunday, as well as covering Bank Holidays.

The riders transport sealed test samples, platelets, notes, patient records, etc saving the health boards money that would otherwise be spent on taxis.

As well as the weekend work, BBW also provides a midweek service delivering frozen breast milk to neonatal baby units across South Wales.

A spokesman said: "Blood Bikes Wales has grown considerably but we are always looking to increase our membership. We need riders but also people who can act as fundraisers or co-ordinators.

"You may see us collecting at supermarkets across south Wales and without these funds we could not continue our work. We are also looking for company sponsorship".

More information can be found on www.bloodbikeswales.org.uk.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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HIGH SHERIFF IS GIVEN THE LOWDOWN ON COASTWATCH!

Left to right: Bill Gill, watchkeeper; Phil Jones, deputy station manager. Terry Ewington, station manager; David Jenkins, High Sheriff and Clive Hosken, deputy manager.

ON November 20, David Jenkins, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, visited the National Coastwatch Station, Nells Point, Barry Island.

He was welcomed by members of the management team who took the opportunity to show him around the charity's exhibition room. A great deal of work has been carried out over the past 12 months with a refit of the exhibition area that now enhances the history of the National Coastwatch Institution on a local, regional and national basis.

Following this tour, the High Sheriff was introduced to the duty watchkeepers and the equipment available to them for their work.

As an experienced mariner and duty launching authority with the Barry Lifeboat, Mr Jenkins asked some very pertinent questions as regards the work of NCI. He complimented the team on their work and stated that he understood the importance of their local presence to "keep a watching eye on the coast to protect walkers, fishermen and sailors and that NCI provides a valued resource in this".

The National Coastwatch Institution is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and has seen the completion of its 50th station.

The good weather we experienced this year, which lasted well into the autumn, has resulted in an increase in incidents. It has been a very busy year.

The winter months are ahead of us now but we will be here carrying out our surveillance out to sea and along the coastline. Inclement weather can make our work even more important but rain or shine we will be on watch 365 days of the year serving the public of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Terry Ewington
(Station manager)

1st Penmark with Porthkerry collect ramble trophies

FOLLOWING the Roman treasure ramble that local Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and Guides took part in around Barry in September, the winning groups were presented with their trophies by Jane Hutt AM on November 21.

Among the winners were 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Cubs. They were a team of four who took part in the ramble and two of the four were present to collect their trophy on behalf of the group. 2nd/4th Barry Scouts were also winners in their category.

In addition, a donation of £500 was made to Llandough Breast Cancer Unit. This was raised by the young people who took part in the ramble, in the form of sponsorships.

Well done to everyone involved!

CR

Local AM urges statement on 'organ donation'

WELSH Conservatives have called for concerns surrounding the Welsh organ donation system to be addressed, following the deaths of two kidney patients who received infected organs.

Regional AM Andrew RT Davies has raised fears over knocked confidence in the process in Wales and called for faith to be restored in a system that saves lives every day.

An inquest into the tragic deaths of both men has heard several hospitals rejected the kidneys, before Cardiff's University Hospital of Wales accepted them.

Mr Davies said: "This a tragic case and our condolences go out to the family and friends of both men. The circumstances surrounding these transplants have raised very serious questions and communities will understandably be concerned.

"I fear confidence and faith in the organ donation system has been knocked and concerns must be addressed by the Welsh government.

"I am disappointed to have an urgent oral question refused in the Welsh Assembly – but I urge the health minister to make a statement on this issue as soon as possible."

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Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Carer's Rights Day tomorrow (November 28) from 4pm – 5pm at Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street. No appointment necessary.

History talk

RHOOSE and District History Society meets this Friday (November 28) at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, when Terry Sylvester will speak on 'The Waverley Paddle Steamer'.

There will be a buffet available after the talk and photographs of the area on show.

AM's surgery

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black is holding a surgery on November 28 in Maesteg Library from 2pm to 3pm. No appointment is necessary.

Welsh Hearts annual Ball

WELSH Hearts/Calonnau Cymru – The Heart Charity for Wales – will be holding its Winter Wonderland Ball at St David's Hotel and Spa in Cardiff on November 28.

All money raised will help to provide emergency life-saving equipment throughout Wales, as part of the charity's Dai Fib Appeal.

Entertainment throughout the evening from Mark Daniel – Ultimate Buble Tribute Act, sparkling drinks reception and three-course dinner.

Contact the fundraising office on 02920 786521; email: fundraising@welshheart s.org.

Cowbridge market

COWBRIDGE Country market will be holding a taster day in the Lesser Hall tomorrow (November 28) between 9.30am and 11.30am, to take orders; and special Farmers' Market on November 30 (Reindeer parade between 11.30am and 5pm).

Charity crafts

COWBRIDGE Stitch 'n Bitch are holding a festive coffee morning and craft sale in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday, November 29 between 10.30am and 1.30pm. All proceeds to the British Heart Foundation.

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, December 2 at 10am, '*Hoffi cerdded, hoffi coffi*' meet at Coffee Cove Cafe, Barry Island.

Also on December 2, at 1.30pm, 'Blow away the cobwebs' – starting at Old Harbour car park, Barry Island.

On December 3, at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On December 7 at 2.30pm, join Frank Roper for his 'Penarth Churches' walk, starting at the Railway public house (behind the station), Penarth.

On December 10, at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Festive fayre

BCLC group is holding a Christmas fayre at Cartrefi Cymru Bridgend offices, Unit 2, Waterton Cross Business Park, South Road, Bridgend on December 2 from 5pm – 7pm.

Entrance £2, including raffle ticket; all welcome. For further details contact 01656 655606.

Asthma advice

ASTHMA sufferers and their carers can attend Age Connect Cardiff and Vale's health topic session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on December 2 (10am to 12 midday).

An Asthma Cymru health care professional will be available to give advice. Contact 01446 732385 for futher information.

New date for Bethel bazaar

Bethel House has apologised as its Christmas bazaar had to be cancelled at the last minute, due to unforeseen circumstances.

It will now be held on Saturday, December 6 from 2pm to 3.30pm at Bethel House Care Home, Dinas Powys (part of Hebron Hall complex).

Further details from Sue or Julie on 02920 513 162.

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LIGHT UP DYFFRYN GARDENS!

RESIDENTS are being invited to make Dyffryn House and Gardens a part of their Christmas this year to see the lights, tree and festive garlands.

A spokesperson urges: "Don't miss our Christmas craft fair on December 6, 7, 13 and 14, where you will have the chance to buy local, hand-made and unique gifts for your loved ones.

"You can also meet Father Christmas; each child will be given a specially chosen gift just for them."

Normal site admission price applies to adults and over-11s. Under-11s get free admission. Father Christmas tickets, £3 per child booking not needed.

For more information, please call 02920 590813, or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens.

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MAIN COURSE
Roasted Turkey
served with all the seasonal trimmings.
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Salmon Supreme
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Nut Roast
served with season trimmings and a vegetarian gravy (v).

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Patrwm y Nadolig wedi'i ysbrydoli gan bapur wal yn Ystâd Wimpole, Swydd Caergrawnt.
Christmas pattern inspired by wallpaper at Wimpole Estate, Cambridgeshire.

Out and About with The GEM

Llancarfan cinema premieres new Dylan Thomas film

THIS Christmas Llancarfan Community Cinema is screening *Dan Y Wenallt*, a new film adaptation of *Under Milk Wood*, as part of events marking the 100th anniversary of Dylan Thomas' birth.

The film is in Welsh with English subtitles and stars Rhys Ifans (*The Amazing Spider-Man, Notting Hill, Twin Town*) and Charlotte Church alongside other top Welsh talent. It reunites director Kevin Allen with Rhys Ifans over 15 years after the release of their cult classic *Twin Town*.

Adapted into Welsh by T James Jones, and with a screenplay by Murray Lachlan Young, Michael Breen and Kevin Allen, *Dan Y Wenallt* explores the rich imagery of Thomas' dreamlike verse in a radically surreal and erotic interpretation.

This is the first cinematic dramatisation of Thomas' text since Richard Burton's 1972 version, ensuring the Welsh poet's legacy can be enjoyed by modern audiences in this centenary year.

Llancarfan Community Cinema volunteer Jim Barratt expressed delight that the film is coming to the Vale: "This will be our first screening of a Welsh language film, and it is a fitting way to mark Dylan Thomas' centenary year.

"We're showing the film on the same day it premieres in venues across Wales, which is real privilege for a volunteer-run outfit like ours."

In addition to the film screening, the Llancarfan and District Community Association will provide Christmas refreshments, with all profits from the event going to the village hall fund.

The event takes place on Thursday, December 11. Doors open 7.15pm, the film starts at 7.30pm. To book tickets call 01446 781 144 or email llancarfancine@gmail.com. Full details are available on the web site: www.llancarfancinema.co.uk

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What's on and where?

Autumn show

THE Broadway Chorus is presenting its sixth annual autumn show at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl this Saturday (November 29) with Tredegar Town Band.

Members of Sarah Burnell School of Dance, the Broadway Chorus and the Broadway Kids are also on stage from 7.30pm. Tickets are available on 01656 788148 or the Pavilion box office (01656 815995).

Toys and trains

BARRY Toy and Train sale takes place on Sunday, November 30 at 10.30am to 3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Sister event, Cardiff Toy and Train Sale, will also be taking place at Penarth Leisure Centre on a three-monthly basis (the next show there is on Saturday, January 10).

Organiser Chris Dyer said this week: "Barry attracts a great range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and a wonderful array of stock is always available from all the big names.

"This Barry show is already almost fully booked with traders and 'house full' is expected on the day of the sale."

Tax help

TaxHelp for Older People (TOP) will hold a free Income Tax surgery for older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB on December 1 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery

FoE meeting

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, December 2, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry. Gareth Clubb, Director of FoE Cymru, will discuss fracking and M4 proposals.

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The service in St Illtuds Church Llantwit Major is open to all and is on Tuesday evening 2nd December 2014 starting at 7pm.

Each year we encourage bereaved families to fill in a memorial tag that we hang on the Christmas tree in the funeral home, tags are available on request. There is no charge for either the service or the memorial tags, but donatons if wished will be given to the local Royal Britsh Legion in memory of the 100 years since the outbreak of WW1.

All enquiries regarding the service or about the memorial tags please telephone 01446 792 489.

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Sauté wild mushrooms (v)
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To Follow
Traditional roast Pembrokeshire Turkey
roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Pigs in blankets, sage & onion stuffing & rich gravy
Roasted Cod Supreme
champagne butter sauce, braised leek mash & wild mushrooms
Sauté gnocchi (v)
toasted chestnuts, roasted cranberries, pickled beets & nectarines

To Finish
Traditional Christmas pudding
brandy sauce & vanilla ice cream
White chocolate & raspberry cheesecake
raspberry coulis & Chantilly cream
Slate of Cheeses
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CADOXTON CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Vital services that make your life easier during the Christmas period...

It wouldn't be a proper Christmas without a visit to Roy's Toys, run by Carol Brown. She told The GEM: "Disney products are going really well this year. We've also got tapestries that light up and can be hung on people's walls." Carol is a collection point for the Scout Post: the last day is December 8. On Christmas Eve she'll be open until 5pm for those last minute gifts.

RIGHT: Connor, Annette and Kris of Dying to Cut.

WORKING people lead such hectic lives that they need all the help they can get. Step forward Vere Street where businesses are keen to ease the burden at the busiest time of the year.

Take The Laundry Rooms which provides slick, professional services in washing, drying and ironing, along with dry cleaning.

The company prides itself on attention to detail and treating every garment with care and carries out all the laundering at its 25 Vere Street premises. At this time of the year it's a lifesaver for busy folk who want to claw back more time for themselves.

The Laundry Rooms is renowned as 'the business where the best clothes hang out'. There's even a free pick-up and delivery service available. The Laundry Rooms is open from Monday to Friday, 8am to 5.30pm; and Saturday, 8.30am to 2pm.

Why not join the growing band of people who drop their clothes in for cleaning or ironing and pick them up in tip-top condition later in the week.

Just up the road is another popular business Allan's Family Fish Bar with the ever-cheerful Allan Payne, one of the area's great characters.

Alan once owed a business in Cardiff, the Chippy on the Bridge at Ely, and relocated to Vere Street 14 years ago.

He said: "We serve very local customers, and people from Wenvoe, Dinas, Sully and Penarth.

"We also do deliveries, with last orders at 9.30pm."

He offers a varied menu, including fish and chips, Clark's pies, kebabs, southern fried chicken and curries.

Be kind to yourself in the run-up to Christmas and order the evening meal from Alan and save yourself time slaving over the cooker – that's what the fish bar is there for.

Kris, Annette and Connor welcome people to Dying to Cut, a men's barbers and unisex salon, directly across the road from Cadoxton Fish Bar.

Kris built up a loyal customer base over the last two and a half years and Annette has brought her customers from her salon in Cadoxton with her.

Kris and Annette said: "We would like to wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year."

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CADOXTON CHRISTMAS CHEER!

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT IS AS STRONG AS EVER IN BARRY

Sculpts has all the expertise – and gym – to help people who want to lose weight.

'The Barrygate' features Bangladeshi cuisine and opened on November 20 at the top of Main Street.

THE flame of Welsh entrepreneurial spirit burns as brightly as ever in Palmerston, Barry.

On the other side of the road from Waitrose store is a community of independent businesses providing niche services.

Lee Szuchnik is typical of the breed – Barry's very own 'Mr Motivator', turning around the lives of people who are struggling to combat obesity.

He owns Sculpts Extreme Supplements at Palmersvale Business Centre.

He explained: "Obesity is costing the UK £47billion and being overweight causes serious health problems such as strokes, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

"We give people all the support they need to lose weight. If someone comes here and doesn't lose weight, I'm doing something wrong."

Lee supplies slimming tablets such as 'Granite' and 'Fab Abs' that help people to shift body fat and improve general health. There's also a private gym with all the necessary exercise machines to help people shed weight.

Lee said: " 'Granites' help because they suppress the appetite so people don't feel hungry – they're all natural ingredients.

"We give people one to one support, encourage a healthy lifestyle, devise a basic diet plan and provide guidelines for them to watch what they are eating."

The gym is a hive of activity and open seven days a week.

"It tends to be most busy in the morning from 9pm to 12 noon and later in the day from 4pm to 6pm."

As Lee talks, the enthusiasm shines through and you can understand why he and the staff have turned lives around. There are testimonials from local people publicised at the gym.

Lee has helped people whose weight has ballooned to such extremes that they have found it difficult to motivate themselves to get up from an armchair or needed walking sticks to get about.

One of his successes has been Ceri Hopkins, aged 34.

Lee said: "Ceri had trouble walking. It was as if he was walking round with two sacks of potatoes on his shoulders. He has now lost eight stone and his experience is inspiring others."

Ceri is one of many. Details of how Lee can help people and some of the customers who have benefited from his expertise are featured on the website www.sculptsextreme.co.uk.

Allan's Family Fish Bar

A traditional Fish & Chip Shop
THAT DELIVERS
to Barry, Sully & Wenvoe.
Free Delivery Orders over £7.50
Minimum Order £4.50

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers

All food freshly prepared including our own Southern Fried Chicken, Kebabs and Burgers. Full range of Pies, Pasties, Sausages, Curry and of course – Fish and Chips.
Open all day Monday to Saturday 11.30am - 10pm. Closed Sundays.
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All types of Haircuts, Fades & Patterns
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Our beautiful shop is open 6 days a week, ready to help with all your personal or business laundry needs.
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Remember…"Its where the best clothes hang out"

Meet the businesses...

Allison celebrates 25th Christmas in Cadoxton

Allison with some cakes she was about to take to Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club.

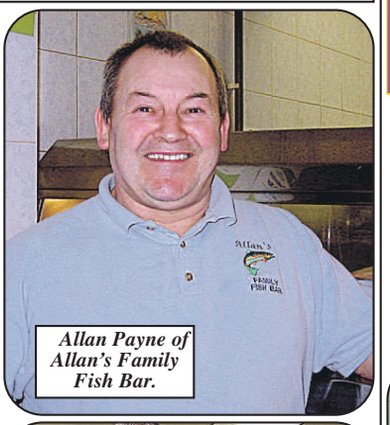
When The GEM visited Allison's Celebration Cakes she was preparing to leave with some of her creations for Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club at St Mary's Church Hall, Wenvoe.

Allison creates all sorts of special cakes with unique designs for weddings, christenings, birthdays, anniversaries – even divorces.

This year is her 25th Christmas in business!

For people who love cake decoration and sugarcraft Allison has all the catering ingredients and tools required – sugar flowers, marzipan, cake boards in lots of different colours, cutters, ribbons, edible and non-edible decorations, and cookie cutters.

Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club meets on the third Friday of the month in Wenvoe.



Allan Payne of Allan's Family Fish Bar.

Arwinder and Sherry manage Nisa Local and have got lots of offers on drink and food this Christmas.

ABOVE: The Royal Fish Bar on Barry Road is an ideal place to pick up a midday or evening meal.

Salon Caprice on Main Street provides a top service thanks to professional staff who wish their clients a very happy Christmas.

ABOVE: 'Baby you can drive my car' – Steve Cleaver of Steve's Barbers has a really unusual front counter so customers can have their hair cut in style!

STEVE'S BARBERS
22 YEARS EXPERIENCE
'Celebrating 15 years in Cadoxton'
STEVE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
During Christmas Week and New Year Week
FREE DRINK AND MINCE PIE FOR EVERY CUSTOMER
19 VERE STREET, BARRY
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Prices are going down... some good news at last!

Prices at VFM this year are even lower than last year!

VFM's reputation is growing throughout south Wales because it is a cash and carry that keeps its prices as low as possible in difficult times.

Owner, Simon Nash, explained: "We cut and pack all our fresh meat daily in store, and it is priced up to 50 per cent off supermarket prices.

"We've also got a large range of frozen food at very low prices.

"This Christmas's prices are going to be cheaper than last year because we've cut out more of the middlemen."

That's good to know at a time when people are keeping a strict eye on their household budget.

For 14 years VFM has provided top quality meats – lamb, beef, pork, chicken – and, of course, at this time of year fresh and frozen turkeys.

Simon added: "We've got quite a following locally and welcome customers from as far away as Porthcawl, Pontypool, the Rhondda and Cardiff."

People can buy meat selections now and 'freeze', or order now (at 30 per cent less than Christmas week) and pick up fresh just before the big day on December 22, 23 or 24.

VFM has always got lots of deals on and also supplies all the other grocery essentials.

Get down to the King William pub for great entertainment

THE King William Public House is a Cadoxton institution and under Dave and Joanne Miller it has developed a reputation as wonderful family-friendly pub.

It provides a non-stop steam of entertainment – every week of the year.

As you can imagine, Christmas and the New Year is a top time at 'The Billy'.

Thoughout December there are some great acts booked, 9pm starts unless stated otherwise – December 6, The Fugitives, a rhythm and blues band; December 13, The Lounge Lizards, classic punk and rock; December 20, Fabulous Cover Sluts, modern day rock and pop with an outstanding female vocalist; December 21, Cardiff vocalist Gary Dawkes (8pm start); December 24, Neil Diamond tribute act Jeff Phillips (5.30pm start); December 27, local boys The Underdogs with classic and modern covers.

But that's not all. There's poker every Tuesday and Thursday at 8pm; Wednesday quizzes 8pm start with £50 first prize, Sky Sports for top football and rugby.

The Christmas draw with lots of prizes takes place at 6.30pm on Sunday, December 21.

Dave and Joanne want to wish all their customers a very happy Christmas.

'24/7Quick Fix' does what it says on the tin!

24/7 QUICK FIX Ltd has just opened in Cadoxton and is a lifesaver for people who need a swift repair of their electrical gadgets.

The owner Richard Jackson told The GEM: "We've been open a week – and used to be be Libra Repairs.

"We repair all sorts of electrical items such as TVs, lap tops, most makes of phones – iPhones, Samsung, HTC, Sony, ZTE, Motorola, Nokia and others."

Whether it is a technical problem or one of physical damage, Richard and his staff can help out.

Richard explained: "We can repair cracked screens for items like iPads, Kindles and the like, and upgrade your old laptops, PCs, TVs, consoles and Apple Mac with software and hardware to improve performance and increase the memory capacity.

"We can repair 99 per cent of mobile phones whether the problems are basic or complex. We are constantly upgrading our lab in order to fix products, so customers can trust that we will provide a great service at the best possible price. For a quote, call us or drop in."

If 24/7 Quick Fix Ltd have a part in stock you could be taking your gadget home within an hour.

It means an item that you thought had to be replaced could end up as good as new!

ABOVE: Barry's Mr Fixit, Richard Jackson of 24/7 Quick Fix Ltd.

Dying to Cut
DYING TO CUT
Traditional Men's Barbers & Unisex Hair Studio
EXCELLENT PRICES
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Bridge St, Cadoxton
CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT
Sat 29 November TWO TICKETS TO THE GUN SHOW
Sat 6 December THE FUGITIVES
Sat 13 December THE LOUNGE LIZARDS
Sat 20 December FABULOUS COVER SLUTS
Sun 21 December GARY DAWKES
Sat 21 December KING WILLIAM IV Christmas Draw 6.30pm-lots of prizes
Wed 24 December JEFF PHILLIPS
Sat 27 December THE UNDERDOGS
Thurs 1 January GENINE - LOUISE
Sat 3 January THE HIDEAWAY TRIO
Sat 10 January THE DON
Sat 17 January THE WORD
ALL ACTS START AT 9PM 'ISH'
TEL: 01446 401248

GUIDE DOGS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TAKES FLIGHT!

Guide dog Leo joined Vale fundraisers Judith Edwards and Sue Taylor to present a certificate and thank you bouquet to Marion Williams, senior administrative assistant at Cardiff Airport.

FUNDRAISING has really taken off for the Vale branch of Guide Dogs Cymru – thanks to a link-up with Cardiff Airport.

Volunteers held eight early morning pre-flight bucket collections at the airport between May and September, raising £1,122 for the charity.

Coins deposited in a dog-shaped collection box in the departures hall totalled an extra £287. The box will remain in place for donations over the winter.

Guide dog owner Sue Taylor, who took part in the collections with her five-year-old labrador Leo, said: "We really enjoyed meeting the excited passengers as they jetted off on holiday, and they were so generous. We were raising awareness of Guide Dogs as well as funds, and it was great that so many different nationalities showed an interest in meeting the dogs and helping our charity.

"The airport staff have been brilliant, and we'd love to do it again next year."

Marion Williams, senior administrative assistant at Cardiff Airport, was presented with a certificate and a bouquet for making the collections possible.

Guide Dogs fundraisers were also on the streets of Cowbridge on Saturday, when they collected a further £426 from shoppers.

Welsh scientist collects his MBE at Windsor Castle

A CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board consultant clinical scientist has been awarded an MBE for his services to the NHS in Wales and overseas.

Professor William David Evans, head of medical physics and clinical engineering was awarded an MBE as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours 2014.

He was presented with the award by the Queen at an investiture at Windsor Castle recently.

There were also honours for Cystic Fibrosis nurse specialist Carole Davies, who retired last year. She was recognised for her services to nursing and consultant neonatologist Dr Mark Drayton, who was recognised for his role in the all-Wales neonatal network.

Professor Evans has worked for Cardiff and Vale UHB for the past 38 years, joining as a basic grade medical physicist after graduating in physics from Jesus College, Oxford in 1972 and obtaining a PhD from the University of Wales.

In the early part of his career, Professor Evans was closely involved in setting up Nuclear Medicine services at the East Glamorgan Hospital in Church Village and at other district general hospitals throughout south east Wales. These services continue to be supported by his staff based at the University Hospital of Wales.

Professor William David Evans received his MBE at the Queen' Birthday Honours recently.

Professor Evans pioneered the development of local facilities for the measurement of bone density in relation to the diagnosis and monitoring of osteoporosis.

In the early 1980s, Professor Evans, along with his team, built a device to measure bone density in the forearm and devised a method to measure bone density in the spine using a whole body x-ray computed tomography (CT) scanner.

On the back of these developments, he was able to raise money to purchase the first DEXA scanner in Cardiff in 1991. The team currently undertake about 7,000 DEXA scans per year at the University Hospital of Wales.

Professor Evans said: "Throughout my life I've always had a passion for physics. I felt very proud to receive the MBE in recognition of work that I love doing. It was a complete surprise to me and I'd like to thank everyone that I've worked with during my career. I look forward to plenty of new challenges in the future."

Adam Cairns, the health board's chief executive said: "I am delighted Professor Evans' devotion to his speciality, to teaching and patient care has been recognised in such a prestigious way. I know his many friends and colleagues will be extremely pleased to hear about his much deserved MBE."

Inspirational farm tour

OUTGOING Future Farmers of Wales chairman, David John, is pictured presenting Chris Hanks with a gift, after an inspirational tour of the anaerobic digester system at Pancross Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan.

David, a lecturer in agriculture at Bridgend College, who farms with his family in Llantrisant, said the visit to Vale Bio-Energy was highly informative and inspirational.

He added:" Converting manure to electricity certainly pays dividends financially, and utilises a nuisance by-product of the large dairy unit highly effectively."

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D854.

- **£2,000:** 552717.
- ***The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won this week.***
- **£10:** 799351, 168421, 343913, 658473, 113258, 575917, 196335, 346919, 577571, 133199, 534149, 361251, 318561, 529168, 302145, 568673, 307557, 642428, 305924, 000481.
- **£5:** 734375, 884225, 330692, 239406, 302345, 108702, 960116, 694787, 814792, 111249, 647404, 476710, 622155, 644442, 711784, 847766, 712052, 347038, 347043, 169470, 323442, 385711, 639673, 379399, 525857, 696041, 445334, 984458, 283133, 468699, 193470, 599569, 667816, 724397, 820756, 584849, 850180, 456033, 795359, 209516, 465655, 765575, 114446, 689430, 169350, 548256, 807864, 330997, 997845, 907742, 145937, 346567, 621567, 540124, 516689, 764619, 555085, 640083, 001405, 000598.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

A winter wonderland

ON December 7 from 2pm-4pm, Sully Friends of Ty Hafan will be turning the Old School Hall in Sully (CF64 5TG) into a winter wonderland!

It is a chance to purchase gifts from stallholders, while sipping hot chocolate, with plenty of craft activities to keep the children entertained!

As well as Santa's Grotto, there will be a visit from Frozen's Elsa and performances from Cantorion Pontyclun Ladies Choir.

Entry is free, but Santa's grotto will incur a charge. All proceeds will be donated to Ty Hafan hospice.

Relax! It's our
BLACK FRIDAY SALE

ONE DAY ONLY
28th November 2014

Many more amazing offers over the weekend... Black Saturday & Sunday!!!!

up to 60% OFF all departments Friday, Saturday & Sunday

MANY ITEMS STILL IN YOUR HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Ritchie 3 Seater Sofa. Beautiful Designer Sofa, in stock and in your home for Christmas while stocks last.

RRP £879 - **BLACK FRIDAY PRICE**
£349 THE SOFA

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Miranda 3 & 2 Seater Sofas. Both these 2 super comfy sofas are in stock and in your home for Christmas while stocks last.

RRP £1999 **BLACK FRIDAY PRICE**
£799 THE PAIR

Relax! There's 60% OFF FRIDAY

Helmore 3 & 2 Seater Sofas. Fully Reclining sofas, in stock and in your home for Christmas while stocks last.

RRP £2999 **BLACK FRIDAY PRICE**
£1199 THE PAIR

Relax! There's 60% OFF FRIDAY

Solid Oak extening dining tables. Many in your home for Christmas while stocks last.
THIS BLACK FRIDAY from only
£399 THE TABLE

Relax! There's 60% OFF FRIDAY

Dining Department
Superb range of dining furniture, Oak, Pine, Glass, Contemporary & Traditional. Many pieces available for Pre Christmas delivery while stocks last

Relax! There's 60% OFF FRIDAY

Image for visual purposes only

Posturetech 1200 Divan. 1200 pockets with a deep layer of memory foam

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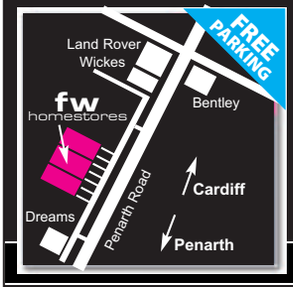

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The Magic of Cowbridge
Reindeer Parade
Sunday 30th November

An afternoon (*and evening*) of fun and excitement as Cowbridge welcomes the festive season in magnificent style

THIS Sunday (November 30) is the date for Cowbridge's annual Christmas curtain-raiser, when Santa comes to town for the Reindeer Parade!

It is an event that was started by the town's chamber of trade and, over the years, it has retained its magic and never strayed far from a successful formula.

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM that there was no need to alter what has worked so well previously.

There will, however, be one extra attraction this year, as the Vale Farmers' Market will be holding a Christmas market, with 21 stall-holders already confirmed.

It will be the first time the market has been specially organised to coincide with the Reindeer Parade, and it has been made possible by support from Creative Rural Communities.

Myfanwy Edwards, secretary of the Vale Farmers Market, added:

"The Reindeer Parade is a great tradition and we are delighted to be involved, to help make it an even more enjoyable event for visitors."

SPECIAL ALE

One of the stallholders is *Tomos a Lilford Brewery*, a local craft brewery, which has created a new beer especially for the Reindeer Parade called Winter Porter Ale.

Co-founder Rob Lilford said: "We make unique craft beers with a real local twist and the Winter Porter Ale we've brewed for this year's Reindeer Parade is no exception.

As usual, the main road through the town, from Westgate through to Eastgate, will be closed from 12 noon to 1pm, to allow the reindeer parade to make its leisurely way from the west end of the town to the town hall.

It will be led this year by a Nativity Parade, organised by Churches Together in Cowbridge. Any children in Nativity costume who want to join the parade, should meet by 11.40am in the garden of the United Free Church, Westgate.

There was an unexpected hitch in this year's Nativity element of the Reindeer Parade, when it was discovered that the parade's usual donkey couldn't make it.

The Churches Together team were concerned, but they need not have worried, as their prayers were speedily answered...

Wendy at Sheepleys B&B in Llandow heard of the parade's predicament and stepped in to offer the services of 'Colin', their resident donkey.

SPECTATORS

Alun John said: "It is best to get to the town soon after 11am to get a good spot for the parade. We hope that as many shops as possible will be open, as this has proved to be the ideal way to welcome Christmas."

The event is paid for by the chamber of trade, although the help of local voluntary organisations is crucial.

Mr John said: "The chamber of trade sees this event as a chance to give something back to the community, and to thank people for their support throughout the year."

There will be extra parking at the western entrance to the town, at Llwynhelig Farm.

The reindeer parade itself, with Santa riding his sleigh, pulled by a team of reindeer and accompanied by his elves, will start at 12 noon.

After the parade, Santa will be in his grotto and will be delighted to welcome young visitors.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment on a stage near the town hall will continue between 11.30am and 1.30pm.

The on-stage entertainment takes a break until around 4.30pm, but returns in time for the afternoon's big finish, when the town's Christmas lights are switched on.

This year, switching on the lights will be TV personalities Rhodri and Lucy Owen, and Ruth Wignall.

The Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club has been involved with the reindeer parade for many years, not only by doing a collection for local good causes and running Santa's Grotto, but more recently providing a burger stall.

With the help of the Cowbridge Rotary Club, the Lions will be doing a bucket collection, and the burger stall will be in the car park behind the town hall. Proceeds from both will go to local good causes.

SANTA'S GROTTO

A Lions' spokesman said: "As usual Santa's Grotto will be hugely popular, so to avoid long queues, access will be by ticket only.

"Tickets can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first-come, first- served' basis from 11am on the day. Each ticket will grant access to one family but please remember the number of tickets are limited since Santa can only stay between 1.30pm and 4pm.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience a donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

A Fabulous Family Day
...SUNDAY 30th November
COWBRIDGE
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Their Famous Reindeer Parade & Celebrity Light Switch On with RUTH WIGNALL with LUCY and RHODRI OWEN

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11.30am Children who wish to join parade, meet at United Free Church in nativity fancy dress

12 noon Reindeer Parade down the main high street

2.00pm Reindeer behind town hall for all to see and Father Christmas Grotto open in Town Hall

4.45pm Ruth Wignall, with Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen, will officially turn on the Christmas Lights sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Chamber of Trade

www.cowbridgeguide.co.uk

The Glamorgan GEM is proud to have instigated and supported this popular event

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Dental superheroes raise cash!

Staff at Porthkerry Dental Centre, Barry, raised £100 for Children in Need – by taking care of patients while dressed as superheroes.

Council welcomes praise for its social services

A report by the Chief Inspector for Social Services in Wales has praised the Vale Council for "providing clear leadership and direction for all social services functions", with no areas for improvement noted in this area of work.

She went on to say... "There are detailed plans in place to deal with areas where further change is needed."

Staff in social services were reported to be well qualified and in adult services, the council had created a new integrated reablement service with the University Health Board in Barry Hospital and completed the new extra care housing facility in Barry. The council had made significant improvement in its youth offending work; there has been an increase in the number of foster carers and good performance in safeguarding children.

***Leader of the council, Coun Neil Moore**, said: "We value highly the work done by our staff in social services, often in very difficult circumstances, and the impact this has on the lives of people throughout the Vale of Glamorgan who need help.*

"We are delighted to have this positive endorsement from the Chief Inspector as we face up to the immense challenges that lie ahead for social services and for the Council."

Victoria Park at Barry is on the up!

People love the community events held at Victoria Park.

by JON GREATREX

VICTORIA PARK – Caddy Park, Viccie Park, the play park, whatever you know it as, it's now the green jewel in the heart of Cadoxton.

Once a run-down urban park, in the last seven years it has been brought back to life and is now Barry's first and foremost Green Flag award-winning park.

It's a little oasis in the east end of the town, a super and safe place for the whole family to enjoy. Bring the kids and a picnic, walk the dog, play your sport, meet up and chat with friends old and new and have some fresh air in the great outdoors.

With the help of a small team of staff to keep the gardens looking good, we pride ourselves on keeping it clean, safe and secure for visitors of all ages.

Not only that, but supported by the local community and the superb 'Friends of Victoria Park' group, we have been able to bring together a varied and comprehensive series of events throughout the years.

Among the events now regularly held are the famous 'Cadstock' outdoor rock and blues concert, Voices in the Park, brass band concerts, outdoor discos, the Friends Charity Fun Dog Show, the Mount Pleasant Summer Jamboree, Flying Start Family Fun Day, Easter hunts and quizzes, Hallowe'en Monsters' Ball, local schools sports days and visits, nursery group nature play, storytelling group, arts and craft events and exhibitions – to name just a few!

If you are a Caddy local and have visited the park, then you will know what it's all about. If you haven't been there yet, come along to one of our events, join in, and have some fun.

There's another Viccie Park event coming soon, something to get people in the Christmas spirit, as on Friday, December 12 'Christmas Carols in the Park,' a charity concert in aid of Macmillan Nurses with Barry Brass Band is on from 6pm to 8pm.

Barry Brass Band provides the music, Cadoxton Bowls Club let us use their fine pavilion, we provide the song sheets, and you can all join in the sing-along. There will be a charity raffle, tombola, a lucky dip and competitions for all ages, along with warming food and drinks in the Bowls Pavilion.

• *If readers would like further information about Victoria Park or events, contact Jon Greatrex, Victoria Park manager, on 07809 551465 or 01446 709580.*

You can also join on Face Book at Victoria Park, Barry – What's Occurring? Or just Google us 'Victoria Park, Barry'.

Pupils' progress marked at presentation evening

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 students worked extra hard preparing to welcome parents/carers and families to the annual 'pupil progress presentation evening'.

The boys made individual presentations to demonstrate the progress they have made since joining the school in September. They focused on English and maths, plus a subject of their choice.

Parental involvement in learning is vital in ensuring students achieve at their highest level. Parents were asked to note targets for improvement and encouraged to make use of the support materials that were available to help the whole family join in.

As part of the school's ongoing drive to raise standards, the evening was evaluated with a parent questionnaire with the feedback being extremely positive about the learning achieved already this term.

Parents also commented on the helpful advice and booklets that were given on the night so parents themselves could help with their sons' literacy and numeracy at home.

AC

Barry Comprehensive School year-7 students reporting on their progress.

Four sports festival for schoolchildren

OVER 100 Vale primary schoolchildren took part in a multi-sport festival at Barry Leisure Centre this week.

It included badminton, netball, table tennis, and squash, organised by the council's active young people team and national governing bodies.

Years 5 and 6 pupils from Cadoxton, High Street, Romilly and Wenvoe Primary Schools were among those participating.

Concert honours armed forces

HUSBAND and wife team Lyndsay and Nicola of Vale Funeral Service, Barry, organised a concert in conjunction with John Lewis of JPL Sound/Barry Music Shop, which was a great success.

Lyndsay explained that the idea came about when John came to their chapel to install a sound system.

John mentioned how great it would be to hold a concert in the beautiful chapel, which was transformed inside and outside with spectacular lighting.

The service and concert was hosted by local radio presenter Dean Caldwell, to remember armed forces past and present and involved performers such as All Saints Primary School choir and local talent Llinos Haf Jones.

There was also a performance and sing-along with Gerri Smith, a Vera Lynn Tribute and vocalist Aubrey Parsons gave an incredible performance of Bring Him Home, Nessun Dorma, The Prayer and, accompanied by the choir, sang Disney's *Frozen* movie soundtrack Let It Go.

The Remembrance part of the service was officiated by Father Ben Andrews, Rector Of Cadoxton, Barry with hymns, readings and two minutes' silence to reflect on the reason for this concert.

The evening was concluded with the Welsh and British national anthems.

Donations were collected at the end of the evening to support Help For Heroes, which raised over £450. Lyndsay, Nicola and John thanked everyone for their continued support.

'LET US GUIDE YOU TO CHRISTMAS!'

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and Llandough Guides would like to remind residents that Scout Post stamps are now on sale in Llandough and Cogan.

Scout stamps only cost 25p and cards can be delivered all over Cardiff and the Vale from Adamsdown to Whitchurch and Aberthin to Ystradowen.

They are on sale in Hornes Newsagents, the car that will be outside the infants school from November 27 to December 8, and even The Merrie Harrier pub. They're also available from any member of Llandough and Cogan Scout and Guide Group.

Only stamps sold in Llandough and Cogan directly benefit our young people and it's the main way we maintain and look after our hall in Lewis Road.

Last posting date is Monday December 8 and cards will be delivered between December 13 – 21. For more information contact commissioner@dinasandllandoughguides.org.uk or phone or text 07765 513424.

Judith Anderson

Local Christmas disco and party!

THERE'S a Christmas disco with buffet at Cadoxton Conservative Club on Saturday, December 20 from 7.30pm to midnight. Tickets are £10 and available from Roy's Toys.

Carol (of Roy's Toys) and her friends were looking for somewhere in Cadoxton for their Christmas get together, a dance and a bite to eat.

They have now organised a local festive celebration which includes a free roulette table, a raffle with over 20 prizes and a buffet.

Plant a tree for the heroes

THIS Saturday, eco- volunteers are needed to help plant 700 trees along the entrance to Barry as a living memorial to the victims of the First World War.

The Woodland Trust are supporting the White Farm Conservation Group's project to remember Barry's heroes by donating the majority of the trees.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the junction of Port Road East and Merthyr Dyfan Road on November 29 at 12.30pm. Equipment and gloves will be provided.

Debate on future of local government starts to take shape and...

The Vale and Bridgend are keen to tie knot in council merger talks

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Welsh Government (WG) may have been keen on two 'arranged marriages' between the Vale Council and Cardiff, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Neath Port Talbot – but Bridgend and the Vale do not want to play ball.

Like star-crossed lovers, they are planning a Gretna Green style elopement, saying that they have far more in common than with the WG's parental choice!

In more formal terms, when the cabinet of BCBC endorsed proposals for expressing an interest in a potential voluntary merger with the Vale Council, the Vale was quick to reciprocate.

Earlier this week, at a full council meeting, BCBC councillors gave a thumping endorsement to the plan, voting in favour by 40 to 7.

Council Leader Mel Nott OBE said: "There is no doubt that the face of local government in Wales is changing.

"The Williams' Commission report has suggested that Bridgend County Borough Council could merge with Neath Port Talbot and possibly Swansea council, and the Welsh Government has also encouraged local authorities to explore potential early voluntary mergers.

"It's important to remember that this is just an expression of interest in a voluntary merger, and that a full business case would have to be developed and agreed before we could take any further steps. But there are a number of very sensible reasons for exploring a voluntary merger with the Vale.

"We are already developing partnerships with the Vale for CCTV and regulatory services.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "It is now clear that some sort of local government reorganisation is going to happen.

"It's also clear that if we do nothing a merger will be imposed upon us and we will have no say in shaping our future services. A voluntary merger offers a unique opportunity for us to transform the way in which we deliver the services that our residents need.

"The council is already under unprecedented financial pressure and dire future predictions for public spending suggest that the situation will only worsen. Should other council mergers proceed as planned, the Vale would be one of the smallest in Wales. This could not only render many of our services unviable but could also mean the Vale's influence on regional and national issues would be minimal."

"Bridgend and the Vale share a number of similarities. A merger of the two organisations would be one of equal partners and one which would see the benefits distributed fairly across the new region."

In a joint report, the two councils emphasise the similarities. BCBC serves a population of 139,000, while the Vale has 127,000. They share a coastline, and both have significant rural areas.

The two councils have a similar number of schools and slightly surprisingly, given BCBC's extra 12,000 people, they have the same number of pupils – about 22,0000.

The Vale Council has yet to vote on the joint merger, but the cabinet will endorse the proposal so that it meets the WG deadline of November 28.

The Conservatives in the Vale have opposed both options. They were against Cardiff and have vowed to oppose the BCBC option.

Regional AM and Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies said: "This proposal is flawed from the start and contradicts guidance within the Williams recommendations that authorities qualifying for European structural funding cannot merge with those who do not.

"I am deeply concerned that local authorities are now being forced to consider inappropriate options because of the significant threat of financial penalties if they do not.

"To date, no one has outlined what services will be delivered under the new structure or indeed what role, if any, will be played by town and community councillors."

This means that the Conservative Leader finds himself on the same side of the fence as the former BCBC leader, Jeff Jones, who has also raised the spectre of BCBC losing European funding. He also opposes the plan.

BCBC Leader Coun Mel Nott said: "Needless to say, there are a number of practical issues that we would need to resolve, and we would have to be careful not to lose sight of the aims of our medium term financial strategy or efforts to cover a £50m shortfall in funding over the next few years.

"But I fully support proposals for exploring whether a potential merger with the Vale of Glamorgan could offer a viable future for communities throughout Bridgend county borough."

Coun Charles Smith, BCBC cabinet member for strategic change, said: "A voluntary merger with the Vale makes perfect sense when you look at all of the economic, transport, social, health and educational benefits that it would bring.

"I think it is plain to see that our future and the continued well-being of the people we serve lies to the east rather than the west."

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "Current facts have informed us that issues such as transport, education, economy and the fire and police services are all east-facing, while statistics show that the vast majority of our residents already travel east when they head to work."

The concept that Bridgend should 'look east' was a factor in the Bridgend Lib-Dems voting in favour of merging with the Vale.

Coun Norah Clarke told The GEM: "The Lib-Dems felt that there were clear benefits from closer ties to Cardiff, rather than to the west.

"The Vale also has a similar post-16 education system, while the Neath Port Talbot one is different."

When the time comes for the Vale to vote, the Lib-Dem position will not be a factor, as the party has no Vale councillors. Their equivalent in the Vale, however, is Plaid Cymru.

Plaid's Coun Chris Franks told The GEM that they had not yet made a decision on the Bridgend option.

However, he said that they opposed a merger with Cardiff because the city had a "very poor education service" and because the council was "convulsed with internal factions".

He said: "I firmly believe there must be acceptable change in local government but there is a need to consult with residents.

"Any reorganisation will be expensive. An investigation by independent accountants has concluded that it will cost £260 million, spread between the 22 Welsh local authorities.

"All this at a time when council services are under pressure due to government cuts."

However, the vote in the Vale is likely to be much closer. the Conservatives are opposed, and so is Coun Philip Clarke, who is an independent representing Rhoose.

He said: "It is abundantly clear from the Williams report that there are overlaps between the public organisations and services that must be cut back or removed. Heath boards and councils can and should now act to begin integrating.

"The report advocates a merger between the Vale and Cardiff with the obvious logistical benefits, and under one health board boundary.

"Cardiff is a modern vibrant city with much commercial activity and could be beneficial to the future prosperity of Cardiff Airport and the inhabitants of the Vale.

"Contrastingly, a merger between the Vale and Bridgend would be less advantageous. Furthermore, such a merger would result in an increase in council tax.

"Discussions at the Vale Council cabinet have indicated an interest with the Bridgend option. Not surprising, as this choice indicates that they will lose fewer councillors than merging with Cardiff.

"A recent comment by a cabinet member at the Vale Council stating that he would leave the Vale if the Cardiff merger took place was unhelpful. Smaller councils tend to be parochial and nepotistic. There should be an open debate. Perhaps the people of the Vale should be given a choice by a referendum".

Conservative regional AM Suzy Davies accused BCBC of lack of consultation, saying: "The document from Welsh Government specifically requires engagement with interested parties. I have asked the council to produce the evidence that it has done this.

"Welsh Government also states that there should be evidence that the local health board, which is ABMU in this case, has been involved with the development of this expression of interest and is in agreement and is supportive of the proposal.

"Mergers which entail crossing LHB boundaries would be 'exceptional'. That is the Welsh Government's word. In order for a merger to succeed in those circumstances, there must be evidence that there would continue to be close collaboration between social services and the NHS board which serves their area so that the quality of continuing care is not affected.

"The proposal to merge with the Vale would mean that the new council would cross the boundaries between ABMU and the Cardiff and the Vale LHB."

In contrast, the Porthcawl First group have never been enamoured of BCBC, and spokesman, Steve Maitland Thomas, was keen on the council combining with, in his view, the leaner, more efficient operation in the Vale.

He said: "Rates for comparable properties are cheaper in the Vale and joining a local authority that recognises the huge benefits of investing in tourism can only be good news for Porthcawl."

Finally, the elephant in the room is "harmonisation". BCBC's rates are lower than Neath Port Talbot's and higher than the Vale's.

The WG has issued no guidelines on how this will be handled, but the obvious solution is for everyone to pay something in the middle when two councils merge.

For BCBC residents, joining with Neath Port Talbot would mean council tax going up, while merging with the Vale should see a fall.

From the Vale's point of view, a merger with Bridgend would seem likely to trigger a rise in council tax, whereas a merger with Cardiff, where council tax is cheaper, could lead to a fall.

However, it seems that this decision will be decided by a vote among councillors, or possibly via an instruction from the Welsh Government.

With a plethora of possibilities, it looks as if this issue will run and run!

• The GEM wants to hear what our readers think? Please get in touch with your views by letter or email. (Full contact details are on page 2).

Post office relocation considered in Dinas

PLANS to relocate the Murch Post Office to McColl's newsagents, are causing concerns in Dinas Powys.

Some residents have expressed the view that it is difficult to understand how the existing shop has enough space to accommodate the post office.

Now Dinas Powys Community Council has requested a meeting with an officer from the Post Office Ltd to discuss the implications of the change of location for the Murch Post Office.

The chair of the community council said that the suggestions had caused unease in the area.

Coun Chris Franks explained: "We have written to the Post Office but so far we have only received a standard acknowledgment. Community councillors wish to properly engage with the Post Office to explore all the options. We have been promised a more substantial reply shortly.Some residents have asked if would be possible to locate the post office in a section of the Murch Library. This would also help to maintain the viability of the library.

"With so much change on the horizon with council services, we have to be very careful to seek to look after the interests of the community."

Heronsbridge School Christmas market

Heronsbridge School is holding a Christmas Market this Sunday, November 30, from 11am to 2pm.

There will be an amazing Santa's Grotto and craft stalls including the much adored Homewood Style. Hot soup, crusty rolls and refreshments will be served.

All welcome. Proceeds to Heronsbridge School.

PLATFORM FOR LOCAL ARTISTS!

ABOVE:Members of Vale of Glamorgan Artists (VoGA) Gwyneth Price and Eve Hart with Menna Jones from Mind in the Vale.

BOTH amateur and professional artists are showing their work in the winter open exhibition in the Travellers Café/Gallery on Platform 1 of Barry Station.The café/gallery is run by charity Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan, with artistic input from the Vale of Glamorgan Artists. Open weekdays from 7am until 12 noon, the current show continues until January 10.

Students swot up at careers and skills event

SKILLSCYMRU welcomed year-11 students from Brynteg School at the Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, where they met exhibitors from sectors and industries across south Wales.

The next generation of Welsh workers were inspired by careers, training and education advice and a selection of interactive and engaging skill-based games and activities.

Students collected leaflets and booklets and had the opportunity to book appointments with companies to discuss career options further.

They even had the chance to enter competitions!

Well done to Rebekah Farley of 11L who won a competition with IQE Cardiff! Rebekah has been offered three days' work experience with this company, which will look great on her CV!

Our students found this to be a very useful event, allowing them to consider the range of employment, learning and training opportunities available across Wales and beyond. **AB**

Llantrithyd coffee for restoration

THERE will be a coffee morning on Saturday, November 29, from 10.30 am at The Old Rectory, Llantrithyd to raise funds for the church restoration fund,

Tickets £4 on the door. Cakes etc and raffle prizes. More information is available from David Williams, chairman Llantrithyd parochial church council. Tel 01446 781357.

'Merger: it's better to shape our own future than have it forced upon us'

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the **Vale of Glamorgan Council**

THIS month's column cannot begin without a reference to the annual Armistice Day events; this year is obviously a special year and I hope that we can all reflect on the futility of war and the loss of life as a result.

Our thoughts are with those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country.

In my September column, I mentioned the Williams' Commission report on the review of public services or local government reorganisation. It proposed reducing the number of councils from 22 to 12 and included merging the Vale Council with Cardiff Council.

I confirmed I was opposed to this because they do not share the same ethos and culture and are not a comparable partner for merger. The Vale Council has opposed such a merger and at that time I confirmed the Vale Council to be a viable council in its own right and I still have that view.

However, time has moved on and the Welsh Government has made it abundantly clear that it is going ahead with mergers – 'with us or without us' – and have produced a consultation document asking councils to consider a voluntary merger with another authority.

I have come to the conclusion that as we will not be allowed to stand alone, we now have to take a pragmatic approach.

The council on September 29 considered the matter again and acknowledged that although the council's preferred option was to continue to stand alone, Welsh Government will not allow this to happen.

The options for and against merging with either Bridgend or Cardiff were set out in the report and it was agreed that, in order to resist a 'forced' merger, pre-negotiations for a voluntary merger with councils 'that share the same values and culture' as the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be entered into.

A further report was brought to cabinet in November, which proposed that the council should voluntarily merge with Bridgend Council, citing many reasons why this was the best option. Therefore, a joint Expression of Interest will be considered by the Vale Cabinet on November 28, as it will in Bridgend. Full details are contained in the cabinet report which is available via the council's website.

I realise that this is a different approach to that originally taken, but things have moved on considerably and it is clear that there is a groundswell of support for local government reorganisation from the public and the majority of Welsh politicians.

There will be some opposition, but we need to have a reality check and realise that it's better to shape our own future rather than have an unacceptable solution forced upon us.

Public services in Wales will change and this is an opportunity to be in the forefront of that change, working with the Welsh Government on transforming public services.

Bringing the Vale and Bridgend together will allow us to develop realistic solutions to the major issues faced by our communities.

Issues such as rising demands for vulnerable people while funding is reducing.

It will allow us to respond to changing public expectations, influence services and outcomes and be better able to develop and maintain the conditions required for successful economic growth and prosperity.

We will await Welsh Government's response to this Expression of Interest in January.

ONTO other news – I am delighted to confirm that the Vale's Play Development Team was presented with an award by the Understanding Disability Group for their Holiday Play Schemes.

They were highly commended in the professional category of the understanding disability awards in recognition of the work in promoting a positive understanding of people with a learning disability. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have developed this excellent service.

Social Services have also been praised by the Chief Inspector for Social Services in Wales in her annual performance evaluation 2013-2014. The report confirms the council is providing clear leadership and direction for all social services functions, with no areas for improvement in this area of work and confirmed that there are detailed plans in place to deal with areas where further change is needed.

I am extremely proud of the highly valued work carried out by our staff and service providers, often under very difficult circumstances. We are delighted to have this positive endorsement, as we face up to the immense challenges that lie ahead for social services and for the council and it shows that we are building on solid foundations and that we have clear plans for further innovation.

WE have also recently agreed to joint regulatory services with both Bridgend and Cardiff Councils. This is an innovative approach to the budgetary and service demands that we are experiencing.

I believe that this is an excellent example of collaboration ensuring we can provide a robust, sustainable and resilient service for all the residents of the area.

This is a new way to deliver a regional public protection service and will enable all three authorities to continue to deliver trading standards, environmental health and licensing services at a considerably lower cost.

This echoes the warnings given by the Wales Audit Office that reported that environmental health services have now reached a 'tipping point' and that failing to future-proof services would represent a risk to people's health and wellbeing.

Collaborating with others to reduce cost and improve quality was highlighted in this report and showed that what we have agreed is the right approach and I am proud that we are leading the way within Wales by safeguarding the future of key services in this way.

I would like to finish by referring to the excellent firework extravaganza on Barry Island this month. It was a spectacular event and I would like to congratulate everyone involved. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

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FENSA

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

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Let our wonderful pubs and restaurants take the strain this festive season

The Highwayman Inn is looking forward to the Christmas and New Year period and is planning a refurbishment in the spring.

ABOVE: A great pub-restaurant in the Vale – the Six Bells in picturesque Penmark.

Great hospitality is a hallmark of Rhoose and its surrounding area.

People are spoiled with the great selection of places to enjoy a Christmas or New Year meal.

The Fontygary Inn is run by a true-life 'Gavin and Stacey', Kerry and Kevin Eade – Kerry from Cardiff and Kevin from Southend-on-Sea in Essex.

Kerry said: "Kevin asked me out in the Fontygary Inn 11 years ago – we're now looking forward to our eighth Christmas since we took it over.

"We pride outselves on the quality of our home cooked food."

The Fontygary Inn has regular entertainment nights on Fridays and Saturdays, and has some fun times planned over the next few weeks.

"On Christmas Eve, we're open as usual until 11.30pm and we'll serve food up to 6pm.

"On Christmas Day we're open for drinks from 11am to 2pm, and on Boxing Day we're open all day for food and drinks and have a 'race night' planned.

"People can still book in for the New Year's Eve party with disco, buffet and Blues Brothers tribute."

Derek Gaynor of The Highwayman, based at Nurston on the outskirts of the village, has no doubt about what attracts his loyal clientele.

"It is all about the food. We have a great chef Wayne Morgan who creates all our menus for the group. They are full of good quality fresh food.

"We've had a record year so far and still have Christmas and the New Year to look foward to."

Derek and Wayne's successful formula is evident at The Caeffatri Bar and Grill in Bridgend too.

But neither Derek nor Wayne are people to rest on their laurels and 2015 will see big changes at The Highwayman.

Derek revealed: "In the spring we will start on a refurbishment – we'd hoped to start earlier, but have been so busy.

"In the mean time, we want to wish all our customers a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year."

Coffee Time, owned by Glenys Watson, is a popular meeting place in the centre of Rhoose.

She welcomes a huge variety of people in any week – local workmen, parents dropping children off at the nearby school, shoppers, friends meeting friends, and, in the summer, walkers and tourists.

So what has Glenys got in store this winter season? A veritable feast of festive offerings!

"We've got our turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce baguettes, mince pies and cream, seasonal cakes, roast turkey and Christmas spicy lattes."

All that plus all of Glenys's tradional fayre: breakfasts, children's meals, soups, jacket potatoes, curries, paninis, and sandwiches. There's a takeaway menu for people on the go.

Glenys also provides buffets for special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays and christenings – pop into the shop for details.

This year Coffee Time will close for a week from the Tuesday of Christmas week.

The Six Bells village pub and restaurant is popular with people from the Vale and further afield.

A 16th century inn, it has all the 'old world' charm – set in the picturesque village of Penmark with the traditional bar and welcoming, roaring fire – just the place to relax for an evening meal or drink.

The restaurant menu is served from Tuesday to Saturday lunchtimes 12 noon to 2.30pm and in the evenings from 6-9pm.

For more information, go to http://www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk.

The Highwayman Inn
Fonmon, Rhoose

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Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

Local people, local services, meeting every need this Christmastime

by COUN JEFF JAMES

THIS is just the time of year when people start to feel the excitement of Christmas – ordering turkeys from local butcher RH Barrett, getting in supplies from local supermarkets, buying wrapping paper from the newsagent, and ordering the Radio Times.

On shopping trips to Rhoose, people like to stop off at Coffee Time. They can book hair do's at Barbuzz, have nails done in the Beauty Corner, or have a make-over at Tan Y Hyde.

Rhoose Post Office is the place to buy stamps and send off your presents. The local chemist provides gifts and the opportunity to pick up your prescription! Gentlemen will need to get their hair cut in Deano's.

Posh Pawz Salon and Spa is a must for pet lovers who want their dog to look their very best.

For those who want post Christmas exercise then Fontygary Leisure Park offers fitness facilities and a swimming pool.

The Fontygary Inn, Blue Anchor, The Highwayman, Rhoose Social Club and The Six Bells are great places to celebrate Christmas or New Year. Whatever your needs this Christmas, I know Rhoose will meet your needs and give you a great choice with real

Tizzie McGivern of Fontygary Inn welcomes customers to enjoy the festive food and entertainment.

Glenys Watson provides a warm welcome at Coffee Time in Rhoose.

Sublime Hair also has its own beauty specialist carrying out treatments for nails, lashes, waxing, tans and even mini-facials.

Sublime Beauty says: 'Book your Christmas appointments now!'

SUBLIME BEAUTY is a classic independent business – local staff providing a friendly, professional service to local people with clients coming from the village and surrounding area.

The salon is ultra-modern, light and spacious, offering stylish haircuts, colourings and beauty treatments.

Local ladies are advised to get their Christmas appointment in early by calling 01446 711799, to ensure they don't miss out on that pre-festive beauty treatment or cut.

Sublime Hair also has its own beauty specialist carrying out treatments for nails, lashes, waxing, tans and even mini-facials.

Vanessa, the owner, said: "We want to thank all our clients for their continued support and wish them a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year."

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NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

BRAVING THE MUD ON THE COASTAL PATH!

AT Llantwit Major, Liz set off in dry conditions with her party of 15 Penarth and District Ramblers passing St Illtud's Church to make their way over the Ogney Brook and into fields on the journey to the coast where they joined the Wales Coastal Path.

After recent heavy rainfall, there was a fair amount of mud to trudge through on their way past St Donat's Castle to reach Nash Point, where the sun broke through highlighting the tall white lighthouse.

Turning inland and climbing up through Cwm Marcross, muddy fields led them to Marcross Farm after which they tramped through autumnal woodland to the delightful St Donat's Church, somewhat dwarfed by the massive walls of St Donat's Castle.

After an exploration of the church and a pleasant lunch, they continued through the grounds of Atlantic College and then by road to King George's Field, where they returned to the coastal path.

Deviating around a huge cliff fall, an extremely muddy track at Cwm Col-Huw led them back to Llantwit and a rewarding drink prior to the homeward journey.

Robin and his spaniel Pepper played host to nine walkers on their exploration of the Mellte and Nedd valleys and, crossing the Afon Mellte by footbridge, where normally the river runs underground, it was gushing above ground after recent heavy rainfall.

Making their way to Porth yr Ogof, known principally for its caving system, they stopped for morning coffee.

Following the fast-flowing river to Sgwd Clun-gwyn (or white meadow) fall before climbing up to join a road, they entered the Nedd Valley.

The leader had warned them that this would be the most perilous part of their journey because they would be following narrow, muddy and slippery tracks and his words rang true – so it was a relief to cross the Afon Nedd and stop for lunch.

Then, climbing through muddy fields to join part of the long distance Roman road of Sarn Helen, they re-crossed the Afon Nedd making their way back across Ystradfellte Common in misty rain to return to their start.

For updates on the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam, on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Barry at War group head hands over

THE Barry at War group, which runs the popular Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island, voted in a new Chair at its recent extraordinary general meeting; with founder Chair and wartime weekend organiser Ade Pitman handing over to Glenn Booker.

Ade said: "Having been the Chair of the Barry at War group since its creation in 2011, as a group we felt that following a hectic 2014, culminating with the recent Remembrance commemorations, it was the right time to hand over to a new Chair.

"As one of the original members of the group, and its expert on the Americans in Barry and south Wales, Barrian Glenn Booker was voted in as the natural choice.

"Since the formation of Barry at War, and the creation of the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre, which celebrates its second anniversary this week, the group has grown in both size and experience under my chairmanship.

"I have every confidence in Glenn's ability, as he leads the museum and the group to the next level.

"I personally will now be concentrating my volunteering efforts on my work with Barry's Air Training Squadron, and the Barry Royal Air Force Association.

"We are planning to take a group of cadets to Normandy next summer, and to create a suitable commemoration in Barry to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, next September."

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre is open on Wednesday afternoons, and will be open this Sunday, November 30.

Information can be found at the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BarryAtWarHistoryGroup.

Trove of treasures at Cardiff Bay

Treasure Trove Antique and Collectors' Fairs are holding an event at Cardiff County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff Bay (CF10 4UW) on Sunday, November 30, from 9.30am to 3pm.

Tickets for adults cost £2, with accompanied children admitted free.

A spokeswoman said: "We're very pleased with the venue because Cardiff Bay is very popular at this time of year. New dealers have joined with quality goods.

"There will be works of art, limited editions, good furniture, jewellery, clocks, pre-1800 ceramics, antique firearms, silver items, vintage fashions and much more."

Trainer Evan's a winner – *again!*

EVAN WILLIAMS, who has been in fine form of late, saddled another winner on Monday at Ludlow where he is the leading trainer.

His seven-year-old Hold Court, ridden by Paul Moloney, took the Beginers Chase by two lengths from Venitia Williams's Citizenship at odds of 3-1.

Hold Court, a previous course winner, was win number 52 at the track for the Llancarfan handler.

Brian Lee

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2014/01299/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Cut back hedges, demolish wall in part and excavate soil to provide a car port for two vehicles. Build a rendered blockwork retaining wall and build a car port with Dutch Barn style roof and timber weatherboard elevations to the back and sides.
Location:/Lleoliad:	11, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Affecting the Dinas Powys

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2014/01190/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Removal of render and sprayed textured coating and replacement with new render. Removal of existing double glazed white UPVC windows and replacement in existing openings with UPVC double glazing windows with revised glazing pattern
Location:/Lleoliad:	1, Pwll Y Min Crescent, Peterston Super Ely
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2014/01217/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	An additional small bronze plaque to be replaced underneath the existing first world war plaque
Location:/Lleoliad:	The War Memorial, The Twyn, Dinas Powys
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2014/01307/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use from Class A1 shops to A2 financial and professional services, and for the replacement of the existing shopfront
Location:/Lleoliad:	52, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2014/01237/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of two blocks of apartments each containing six dwelling units
Location:/Lleoliad:	Vacant land, The Limes, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 27 November, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Mud Run is not for the fainthearted!

Kenfig Hill Cadets (photo supplied by CI Paul Dixon).

THE BURN, also known as the Mud Run, was organised and operated by Revolution Runs. Cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron and 293 (Cowbridge) Squadron RAF Air Cadets helped out at the event held on November 16.

The cadets and staff acted as marshals along the route around Cowbridge area. The cadets from Kenfig Hill Squadron were at the finishing line handing out goodie bags to the runners.

There were 21 obstacles on the run, with names such as Burning Rubber, Run or Dye and Hang Tough, not for the faint hearted, even the names conjure up an endurance test.

The cadets were there in support of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF) who would receive a donation from Revolution Runs.

Flt Sgt (ATC) Gould was in charge of cadets and he said that the overall impression from the organisers of the run and Cerys Saddler from RAFBF was that the cadets were exceptional in their attitude and professionalism in all tasks they were asked to undertake, especially taking into account the weather conditions.

Sgt (ATC) S Lewis, who had already been committed from the Friday evening until the Saturday night, supervising cadets at a sporting activity at RAFC Cranwell, was also there to supervise cadets.

Sgt (ATC) Lewis is a member of staff at 2426 (Pencoed and District) Squadron and also a supernumerary member of staff at Kenfig Hill Squadron.

Lindsay Thomas (Secretary Civilian Committee)

GIFT BOX TARGET IS IN SIGHT!

Sunday school children at Bethel Baptist Church, Tredegar are pictured with some of the 168 shoe boxes sent to the Cowbridge warehouse. Last week, the total collected during this year's campaign reached 10,000 and with two weeks left, the target of 25,000 is in sight.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN BARRY

THE grand opening night of our third Christmas tree destival at St Mary's begins at 6.30pm on December 10, following judging by the Vale Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, Barry Town Mayor, Coun Jeff Evans and Jane Hutt AM be switching on the lights of trees on display.

A concert will begin at 7pm with Cadoxton School Choir, High Street School Choir, soloist Eleri Borges and children of Cadoxton School the drums. Tickets are just £5 each (children admitted free).

St Mary's Church will then be open from 10am to 4.30pm on the following Thursday and Friday for people to view the many trees on display, along with eight school choirs from various schools in Barry over the two-day period.

On the Saturday Father Christmas will be dropping in at 9am to enjoy breakfast with the girls and boys. All welcome. Tickets will be £5 with a gift for every child.

At 3pm, there is the St Donat's Atlantic Chorale and also folk songs from Geoff.

During the concert the winners of the Christmas tree festival will be announced and certificates presented to the three categories. Tickets for this event £5 (again all children have free entrance).

A donation from the festival will be made the to the People's First Charity, which look after those with learning difficulties.

For further information, telephone Sue on 07866078665.

Remembering The Great War, in art and pictures

ART CENTRAL Friends hosted a talk by ceramicist Tracey Baker and photographer Jon Pountney in Art Central Gallery – made available to the group through Tracey Harding and the Vale Council.

Tracey Baker, who graduated about four years ago from Howard Gardens, and who has had a life-long interest in horses, told how she became inspired to learn about the role and fate of the war horse in the Great War.

She described the technical details and difficulties of producing her sculptural pieces, especially the cast taken of the leg from her own horse.

She showed illustrations to clarify her points and the sources of her inspiration as far back as the sculptural horses of the Chinese dynasties to modern day.

Jon told members he had wanted to use the camera given to him by his grandmother many years before, that had been given to his grandfather by an Italian prisoner of war in World War Two.

It was a was German Voigtlander made in the 1930s, and as it hadn't been used for many years, the lens had been contaminated by fungus, producing a ghostly but atmospheric slant to his photos.

He spent many hours on his own visiting churches in the Vale, photographing war memorials. He had found many hidden treasures, such as war graves in Llantwit Major – this was also a surprise to many of the audience.

Art Central Friends' next talk is by Helen Sear, Wales' representative at the 2015 Venice Biennale on December 4 at Art Central Gallery, Kings Square, Barry at 7.30pm.

Funeral directors stage community memorial service

ON Saturday, November 29, at 3pm in Crossway Methodist Church the community of Barry are invited to join funeral directors Lyndsay Ellis and his wife Nicki, for a Christmas Memorial Service to remember loved ones who have passed.

Husband and wife Lyndsay and Nicki of Vale Funeral Service at Court Road, say that the service is their way of giving something back to the community.

Lyndsay said: "This service is a personal gesture from us to all those who have lost loved ones recently or in the past. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time. This is a community event and whether you have been looked after by ourselves, or any other funeral home, all are welcome.

"This service will be emotional and uplifting and I know from past years brings comfort to those who have lost a loved one. We invite everyone interested in attending to contact us so that loved ones' names can be read out in our roll of honour.

"In previous years, the service attracted over 250 people and the feedback was so positive, and this is another reason why I am continuing the service for many years to come.

"The service will be officiated by Rev Pete Taylor and assisted by the kind help of his church family. We will sing some carols, words of comfort, and some pieces of music as we take time to reflect.

"It will last approximately half an hour and after the service all are welcome for tea and coffee at the Church Community Hall.

"There will also be an opportunity for families to complete their memorial tags for our Memorial Christmas tree with messages for their loved ones. Our memorial tree will remain at Crossways Church for the duration of Christmas.

"I wish to thank all at the church for their assistance in making this service possible." Lyndsay and Nicki hope that all can join them to remember and share memories of their loved ones.

Should you wish to attend or you would like to add your loved one's name to their roll of honour, Lyndsay or Nicola can be contacted on 01446 407962, or please call into the Funeral Home at 181, Court Road, Barry.

Authors sign up in Penarth!

GRIFFIN Books, Penarth's independent bookshop, has hosted two successful author events.

On November 8 teacher Laura Sheldon visited to sign copies of her children's book centering on Dylan Thomas, Mr Mahli's Shed. Then on November 14 retired Rear Admiral Chris Parry gave a talk at All Saints' Church on the topic of his latest book, Super Hghway: Sea Power in the 21st Century, after which he chatted with audience members and signed copies of the book.

Griffin Books' next event will be the launch of local poet E Mary Wilce's latest collection, on Monday, December 15 at 6pm; admission free.

RECYCLING: 'Give us the tools'

THE Vale Council is looking to ration food waste bags to save £100,000, but if the council wants people of the Vale to recycle, then they have a duty of care to provide us with the tools to do so.

What on earth are we paying all this council tax for?

First it was a plan to turn off street lighting, now it's picking on recycling. So when it comes to saving money, the environment takes second place.

With reference to putting a charge on these bags if we run out, I can tell this council now, I for one will not pay one single penny for more bags.

I would rather throw my money in the bin than put it in the council coffers.

DJ Radford, Barry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festival gala

A GALA concert is being held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge tomorrow (Friday, November 28) to celebrate the Christmas Tree Festival at 7.30pm featuring Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, supported by soprano Ellen Williams and accompanist Sian Davies.

Tickets £7.50 are available from the Church Admin Office, Holy Cross, Church Street, Cowbridge.

Concert

THE Cardiff Bach Choir, conducted by Tim Taylor with St Woolos Players (leader Chrisoph Madler) present a concert, 'Remembrance' of music and words, to commemorate the centenary of World War One on November 29 at 7.30pm in all Saints' Church, Penarth. Tickets available at the door.

The concert will support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Works include Faure Requiem and JS Bach Mass in A Major.

Craft fair

THE Penarth and District fundraising group for Marie Curie are holding a Christmas craft fair at Penarth Conservative Club on Saturday, November 29, 10am – 2pm. Buy your Christmas gifts and see Father Christmas and Peppa Pig.

All proceeds will go to the Marie Curie **hospice in Penarth.**

Dyffryn talk

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust Members and Volunteers have arranged a talk at Dyffryn Gardens at 2pm on Wednesday, December 3 when Glyn Jones from Hidcote will tell of his research at Dyffryn; followed by a walk in the garden (weather permitting).

New members welcome; email vofgant@gmail.com for a copy of newsletter.

Free advice

ON December 3 Halo Leisure is inviting people with disabilities in Bridgend county to visit one of its eight centers at Bridgend, Garw, Maesteg, Ogmore, Pencoed, Pyle, Ynysawdre, for advice on getting physically active, and to claim a complimentary seven day pass to try out their facilities. *Visit www.haloleisure.org.uk or call 0300 012 1223, for more details.*

Service

THE Llantwit Major Friends of Tenovus are holding their annual Lovelight service on Thursday, December 4 at St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major, at 7.30pm.

Dinas fayre

DECEMBER 5 sees the Dinas Powys Dickensian fayre, again organised by the Rotary Club and supported by local businesses and groups at 6pm.

Santa will be there supported by his elves, and will meet youngsters in his grotto (the village square will be closed to traffic).

Lights

THE annual lighting of Llancarfan Christmas tree will take place on Sunday, December 7 at 6pm at the ford in Llancarfan, with singing of carols, mince pies and mulled wine (weather permitting).

The lights will be turned on by the winner of the Llancarfan Primary School painting competition and John and Sue at The Fox and Hounds will welcome all after the lighting ceremony.

New nursery underlines importance of Welsh language to county borough

With some of the children at the new Welsh language nursery are Carwyn Jones AM, Yvonne Ruck - Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ, Lou Stevens-Jones - Mudiad Meithrin Development Officer, Dona Lewis - Mudiad Meithrin Deputy Chief Executive.

CARWYN JONES AM has officially opened a new Welsh language nursery that has been set up with support from Bridgend County Borough Council and Mudiad Meithrin in Bryntirion.

Attending in his capacity as Assembly Member for Bridgend, the First Minister and passionate Welsh speaker joined staff and children at the new 'Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ', based in Bryntirion and Laleston Community Centre.

With room for 16 children, the nursery opened in January this year and has received funding from a Welsh Government 'Out of School Grant', administered by the council's childcare team.

Mr Jones said: "It's great to see the opening of another Cylch Meithrin in Bridgend. As somebody who is a Welsh speaker, I know how important it is that children have the chance to learn and speak the language from a young age. And of course, around 150 years ago, 70 per cent of people living in Bridgend county borough actually spoke Welsh, so it is a strong part of our local history."

Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, was also present for the opening, and said: "Having identified a gap in Welsh medium provision in this part of Bridgend, Yvonne Ruck set up the 'Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ' earlier this year and it is going from strength to strength.

"Yvonne is an experienced early years practitioner and she has worked closely with Mudiad Meithrin and the council's Childcare Team to develop this provision which is a fantastic asset for the local community. It has been a real team effort and this official opening has given us a chance to celebrate the successful partnership working which has made it all possible."

Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ is registered with CSSIW and is open Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm for children aged between two and four-years-old. A lunch option until 1.15pm is also available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the long term aim is for the provision to expand to being open for full day sessions as well as during school holidays.

Flying Start childcare spaces are also available at Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ for eligible people living within the Flying Start area of Cefn Glas.

Parents and carers can find out more about Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ by calling Yvonne Ruck on 07582 825867; or by emailing cmgwdihw@gmail.com.

Further information about Welsh-medium early years provision can also be found at www.meithrin.co.uk.

Gathering for the official opening of the Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ in Bryntirion are: Coun Charles Smith BCBC cabinet member for strategic change, Coun Cheryl Green – ward member for Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr, Carwyn Jones AM, Coun Huw David - cabinet member for children and young people, Amy Castle - childcare team manager at BCBC, Yvonne Ruck - Cylch Meithrin Gwdihŵ, Lou Stevens-Jones - Mudiad Meithrin Development Officer, Mal John - chairman of the Mudiad Meithrin Bridgend County Committee, and Coun Gary Thomas - Mayor of Bridgend county borough.

Christians Against Poverty group is launched at Tondu

ABOVE: Huw Irranca-Davies MP,; Coun Mike Gregory; Stephen Roberts, regional manager for CAP; Janice Gregory AM; Mayor's consort Kay Jenkins; Colin and Marlene Ockwell (CF32 CAP manager); Mayor of Bridgend, Gary Thomas; Rev Gordon Sollis (Tondu Methodist Church), Darren Mepham, CEO of Bridgend; Coun Mel Nott; Paul Homans (Pastor of Community Church, Aberkenfig) and Tony Jones of the 'Church of God.

A MEETING to launch the new CAP (Christians against Poverty) Centre was held at Tondu Methodist Church on November 21 when dignitaties, including Huw Irranca-Davies (MP), Janice Gregory (AM), Gary Thomas (Mayor of Bridgend) Darren Mepham (CEO of Bridgend) and councillors Mel Nott and Mike Gregory, were in attendance to give support, along with representatives of local churches.

Unfortunately, Stephen Pare, Vicar of Llansantffraid Church, was unable to attend the meeting.

The audience were introduced to the new CAP Manager for Bridgend Area code CF32 Mrs Marlene Ockwell, ably assisted by her husband Colin. Both Marlene and Colin are members of the Community Church, Aberkenfig.

People attending the launch also heard from Stephen Roberts, who is one of the regional managers of the CAP organisation. He gave a presentation showing the aims and the role of the organisation in our communities and how, as a group, local churches working together can make a difference in the lives of those who are debt ridden and don't know where to turn.

CAP provides both financial advice and practical help – having someone to listen to problems can make a huge difference.

Coun Mike Gregory, on behalf of the other dignitaries present, expressed their pleasure and approval of the working together of the churches, and for their enthusiasm and support in the setting up of CAP provision in the area.

Going, going, gone – Porthcawl's mud!

THE 'mud pile' at Salt Lake car park in Porthcawl, which sparked protests by local residents during the summer, has now been removed by the Bridgend County Borough Council.

Photographs by **Keith E Morgan**

THE PORTHCAWL MAYOR 'STEPS OUT' FOR PAODS

The Mayor joins the PAODS line-up. Report and picture by ***Keith E Morgan.***

THE Mayor of Porthcawl has taken to the boards to help promote the *Best of Broadway*, the latest musical show to be performed at the Grand Pavilion at Porthcawl on Saturday, November 29 by PAODS, the Porthcawl Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society.

Following on from their highly successful performance of *The Producers* in May, members of PAODS under their musical director Mike Plowman, have been rehearsing.

The Mayor, Coun Sean Aspey was there to encourage both children and adults taking part in the annual autumn celebration of all that's best in musicals and popular songs, by joining in on one of the society's rehearsals.

PAODS give regularly to local charities from the proceeds of their performances. This year will be no exception when they will be supported on the Grand Pavilion stage and assisted in this task by the Tredegar Town Band, featuring The Broadway Chorus and The Sarah Burnell School of Dance.

Look out for a treat next year when PAODS perform The Wizard of Oz at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

FRIENDSHIP CONCERT

BRIDGEND Male Choir will perform at St Mary's Catholic Church on Ewenny Road, in a concert that marks the friendship between the choir and church going back many years.

The concert also features St Mary's Junior School choir. Both choirs will include seasonal items from 7pm on Friday, December 5. Tickets (£5) available at the church.

PhillyBear's charity dress-up!

ON November 13-14,children and staff at PhillyBear's Playgroup held in 5th Barry Sea Scout hall on Everard Street dressed up for 'Children in Need'.

All the children and staff were asked to dress up in pyjamas and to donate some money towards Children in Need.

All the children and staff joined in the spirit of Children in Need because they think it does amazing things to help so many children. The children and staff had a fantastic time dressing up, or as the case was not getting dressed in the morning to come to Phillybear's, and raised a total of £34, which is more than last year.

Rare fruit trees for 'Lucy's Orchard'

WHITE FARM Conservation Group, supported by friends and family of Lucy Dickenson, have planted a rare Welsh species fruit orchard on the newly-established park at White Farm in celebration of her life.

Lucy helped set up The SAFE Foundation in 2006. She was passionate about grassroots development and determined to ensure that assistance and aid is directed towards specific groups on the fringes of society. The SAFE Foundation worked tirelessly under Lucy's guidance to engender positive change locally, nationally and globally.

Lucy was working with women farmers in Zambia when she was killed in a road accident in August 2012, aged 32.

Chairman of the White Farm Conservation Group, Rob Curtis, put together a successful funding bid to Biffa Awards who awarded the group £1,374 to purchase 32 rare Welsh species apple, pear and plum trees and also 32 RSPB nest boxes to create a home for local wildlife.

Lucy's twin sister, Hannah Fitt said: "This orchard is not just a lovely idea for the community of Barry, where Lucy was from, but also it has extra significance for our family.

"Lucy's work with The SAFE Foundation is of course a fantastic legacy which we will continue into the future and what most people may think of when they think of Lucy; but she was much more than that too and this peaceful, natural setting reflects another side of her."

Mockingjay leaves you 'Hunger-ing' for more action...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

IF you're a film franchise based on a successful series of books aimed at a younger market, then the likelihood is that come the concluding chapter, you'll find yourself spread out across two films.

It happened with *Harry Potter*, it (unfortunately) happened to *Twilight*, and now *The Hunger Games* is getting in on the act, a tactic used to fleece money from audience's pockets, oops, I mean, allow the filmmakers to achieve their vision unencumbered by the restrictions of a single film.

In the final (or should that be penultimate) chapter, *Mockingjay – Part 1*, we find Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) in District 13 after she had taken down the games at the end of *Catching Fire*. Under the leadership of President Coin (Julianne Moore) and the advice and support of her new allies (among them Philip Seymour Hoffman in his final film role, Woody Harrelson and Sam Claflin), Katniss must attempt to save Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) after he was captured by the Capitol and lead a rebellion to end their power and control...

The downside of splitting the last book of a series into two films comes from the fact that, inevitably, the first half sees the dramatic heavy lifting while the action and excitement is loaded in the second instalment,

It happened to both the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* films, and *Mockingjay – Part 1* suffers from a similar malaise, the weight of exposition and moving everything into position for the final outing, resulting in a leaden and cumbersome film that only gets out of first gear towards the end.

To be fair, there's plenty to get through here, but rather than take a pacey approach, you end up getting lots of people just talking about things that aren't going to happen (conveniently enough) until the second instalment.

What is most intriguing about this first part is the way it focuses on the propaganda of war as opposed to actual combat, the battle to win over the public teetering on the brink of revolution.

It's a clever conceit, one that has always been in the background of the other films, but brought to the fore here, but however interesting it is, it doesn't make up for the lack of bite elsewhere.

It stretches to the performances as well, a top-notch cast saddled with a script that meanders around. Consequently, Jennifer Lawrence, whose Katniss has evolved from a girl looking after her family into a lean, mean fighting machine, spends the majority of the film with either a startled look upon her face or snivelling about one thing or another.

It's not a fault of the actress, who gives it her all and, as ever, is watchable, but that of the needs of the story that need to see her character weakened.

The likes of Julianne Moore, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman and Donald Sutherland provide gravitas, but little more in their underwritten roles, while the young guard of Josh Hutcherson, Sam Claflin and Liam Hemsworth do nothing wrong, but are saddled with too little to do.

It's the portentousness of it all that really grates, and director Francis Lawrence doesn't have the solution to inject some much needed verve.

While a climactic raid to free Peeta manages to raise tension levels, and a shoot-out between Katniss' bow and a Capitol fighter jet raises the pulse, there's just not enough here to justify a two-hour film.

Instead, it's yet another case of studios stretching stories out to maximise profit returns with seemingly little care for the end product. *Mockingjay – Part 1* feels like the calm before the storm but it's a calm verging on the lifeless, with no doubt the real drama and spectacle turning up in Part 2.

For a franchise called *The Hunger Games*, it's ironic that this time around you are left hungry for some excitement.

VERDICT: The curse of the 'Part 1' kicks in again, as *Mockingjay – Part 1* is the weakest entry in *The Hunger Games* series. Slow and dull, with only a few fleeting moments of excitement, it's a film that flags up the excitement to come in the second part without delivering anything itself.

The performances are pretty one-note, and it has the air of a film simply passing the time before the real drama kicks in. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Hunger Games* (2011), *The Maze Runner* (2014).

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 7) ORDER 2014

1. On the 26th November 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 28th November 2014 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place whichever is later and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 7) Order 2014"

3. A copy of the Order and plan showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 28th November 2014 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council
(Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE

Insert into new map schedules AU47 and AU48

Port Road West (Part), Barry – Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

On the southern side, from a point 4 metres west of the common boundary of properties Ty Ni and the Fuel Station, westwards for a distance of 22 metres.

Pontypridd Road (Part), Barry – Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

On the north-eastern side, from a point 4 metres northwest of the common boundary of properties 118 and 120, north-westwards for a distance of 29 metres.

Dated this 27th day of November 2014.

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014
GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 7) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Ar 26 Tachwedd 2014, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53, a 124 a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith wedi'i disgrifio isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 28 Tachwedd 2014, a phetai'r holl arwyddion a marciau ffordd yn cael eu darparu cyn hynny, ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygio) (Rhif 7) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r cynllun sy'n dangos y mannau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 28 Tachwedd 2014 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio 2013) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

ATOLDEN 1

Cynhwyser atodlenni AU47 ac AU48 yn y map newydd

Port Road West (Rhan yn unig), Y Barri – Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Ar yr ochr ddeheuol, o fan sy'n 4 medr i'r gorllewin o gyd-derfyn eiddo Tŷ Ni a'r Orsaf Danwydd, am 22 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Pontypridd Road (Rhan yn unig), Y Barri – Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o fan sy'n 4 medr i'r gogledd-orllewin o gyd-derfyn eiddo 118 a 120, am 29 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd-orllewin.

Dyddiedig 27 Tachwedd 2014

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

TREE FESTIVAL

GLAMORGAN Federation of Women's Institutes invites you to start your Christmas celebrations at their Christmas tree festival at The Orangery, Margam Park on Wednesday, December 3, between 11.30am - 4.30pm.

Tickets costing £2.50 are available at the door. Refreshments are available and there will be festive entertainment during the day.

IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Bridgend gears up for Christmas AND PROVES IT HAS PLENTY TO OFFER THE DISCERNING CUSTOMER

ABOVE: Gary Bailey of Miss Label with customer Jeanette Andrews.

WITH 'bee' as its first letter, Bridgend has always had a certain buzz about it. It can be no coincidence that one of the most happening nightclubs of my youth was the deafening and Disco-tex-blaring Drones.

In the words of my savvy 16-year-old, Bridgend has it all: "Supermarkets, a cinema and a selection of sassy, slashed-price clothes and accessories shops". What more could a gal want?

There's also a range of stores tailor-made to the chaps (*see below*).

Forget the crush of the capital. If it's a one-stop, quick and easy Christmas-shop you're after, Bridgend and the surrounding area is your target. First-time visitors (and detractors) would also do well to consider the town's rich history, developing from a small market settlement in the 15th Century, to a thriving modern community and host to the National Eisteddfod in Newbridge Fields in 1948.

This Christmas, it is keener than ever to brandish its 'We're Still Booming and Bustling' badge, the streets in the town centre are humming with activity of all kinds.

The market is alive with the waft of warm Welshcakes (I succumbed to two during my "it's-all-in-the-name-of-research" trip), the Rhiw is rich in top-rate, wide-range retailing and the town centre is gearing up for Santa's arrival this Saturday at 11am, with elves and trusty reindeer cavalcade.

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30pm, with former *X-Factor* contestant Chris Sheldon providing some vocal cheer – and Santa will be in his cosy grotto from noon until 4pm (£5 entry including gift, open every Saturday until Christmas, 10am-4pm).

From December 6, there are free rides around town on the quaint and foot-ache easing Christmas Express. Aaah. The relief. To top it all, this year's alternative Eisteddfod on December 13 – the burgeoning Elfsteddfod, now in its fifth year– will yet again see game participants from all over the county donning red and green jumpers and jingle bell-jangling elf hats in an attempt to break last year's record of over 1,500 elves in one place.

Bridgend has already wrestled the title from New York, and looks set to maintain its lead again this year. Bridgend Consumes Big Apple. What a truly elfy way to start your Christmas in BCB.

With aforementioned 16-year-old Dortie and Bridgend aficionado in tow, I embarked on my town tour in its "premier all-weather shopping facility", aka The Rhiw.

"It's got a good vibe today" said the Toot (Teenage Oracle On Trend).

"Buzzing?" enquires aged mother.

"Na. That means it's awful. And this is, like, handy. You can get most things here".

I have much to learn, reader. Amidst the throng of shoppers, we pushed our way into the newly-opened **Miss Label**. Fab name, reminiscent of the designer Miss Sixty brand.

"It's actually an anagram using letters from my partner's parents' names, Mabel and Islwyn," says the charming and cheery owner, Gary Bailey. Cute. I always warm to someone who reveres their elders.

With an impressive CV, boasting 24 years with companies such as River Island and New Look (he was the latter's regional manager for seven years), Gary's mission is to "bring the high quality fashion usually in the bigger stores to the smaller market and to offer fashionability to all ages at a reasonable cost".

Browsing through the rails, Gary has certainly done that. Stylish wraps and ponchos (very Angelina) in taupe (a snip at £15), figure-flattering cut-on-the-cross tops and a superb range of accessories.

"I only buy four or five of each piece, so the customer knows she's getting something quite exclusive. With bags, I only buy two of each".

We gals spent £1.2 billion on these last year and Gary's range is a stylish, affordable alternative to those purse-crippling designer totes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

ABOVE: Eileen Schofield of Cookmate.

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We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

The bustling Market 925 Cafe.

IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Bridgend at Christmas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Gary added: "I also do a hold and deposit facility, which is very rare these days, but already popular in this difficult climate. And with my wealth of contacts, I can get jewellery to match almost anything".

Opened just six weeks ago, and already shortlisted in the recent Bridgend Retail Awards, Gary's approach is courting custom. Jeanette Andrews from Sarn, who works in Bettws Primary, snaps up a tasteful beige scarf for £7 "to wear to my Christmas do in the Haywain".

Jeanette thinks Miss Label is "very original, with very attractive prices" adding that she'll be "spreading the word". Gary is offering 10 per cent discount to GEM readers on Sunday, November 30, and also on December 7 and 14.

Williams and Evans in Queen Street has been offering "quality menswear at affordable prices to generations of local Welsh families for over 100 years". Owner Edward Davies has worked hard to maintain the "excellent service and "garments of the highest quality" pioneered by his great grandfather James Evans and his friend James Williams.

Boasting an impressive range of shirts, jackets, trousers, waistcoats, knitwear and hats from top quality designers, the shop also does a made to measure, bespoke service for all kinds of suits and jackets.

"We are one of a handful of companies offering this in south Wales," says Edward. Keen to shake off the 'more mature gentleman' image, Edward emphasises that their customers range from men "in their 30s and upwards".

The shop has developed a warm and welcoming website, with an attractive online money back guarantee. Testimonials from happy customers include the definitely-not-dated: "Lovely shop. Wicked clothes!", proving that Williams and Evans caters to men of all seasons and sartorial tastes.

The family's seven-year -old daughter Kitty sums up the business's ethos: "We have great value. We have good manners and a restaurant next to us. So come and shop with us please!"

Thinking of hard-to-please hubby, I am drawn to the shop's range of soft-top socks and get an unhealthy, showing-my-age thrill out of spotting their hem-stitched handkerchiefs, wooden clothes brushes and furfelt fedoras, as sported by the likes of Hugh Jackman, Johnny Depp and Zara Phillips.

As well as good (dare I say 'old-fashioned'?) service, Edward prides himself on providing "good, fashionable and comfortable clothing", adding that "understated" is also important. Tasteful to a tee.

Inside the market itself, business is brisk. Resisting the freshly-baked Welsh cakes, we call at **Cookmate** to chat to the amiable owner, Eileen Schofield.

Relocated from its town centre location and now bang in front of you as you enter the market, the shop continues to stock an amazing range of baking accessories – nozzles, couplers and cake toppers – and also kitchenware gifts, ranging from cafetieres (a huge one, for just £15 – I'll be back!) to cutlery and home brew kits.

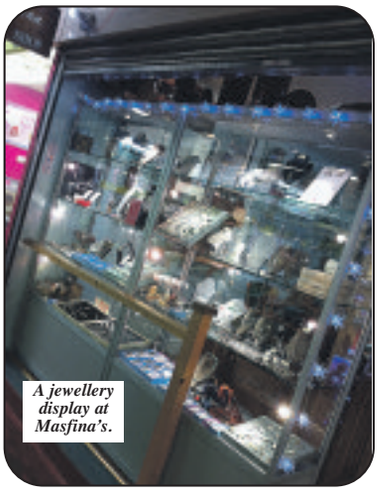
Eileen also hires out cake moulds (as in tins) –"£1 a day, plus £5 deposit"– boasting a staggering variety that includes the Teletubbies, Spiderman, motorbikes and Christmas trees (much in demand right now).

As well as giving customers welcome tips on techniques and recipes – "there's a huge return to homebaking now" – Eileen also hires out two tier cake stands which are "not just for weddings, but are becoming more and more popular for children's birthday cakes".

My, how times have changed since my childhood birthday bashes, when the good old iced Victoria Sponge, topped with a handful of chocolate buttons was a treat. One upmanship is good for business, it would seem.

In a pick 'n mix style palette, Eileen has thought of everything: boxes, boards, ribbons and rolling pins. Renshaw icing in every colour imaginable is also competitively priced and Eileen also has a wide range of Wilton food colourings. "I also teach cake decorating classes for Wilton. There's one coming up in January in Pencoed". Blossoming Bake-Off buffs, take note.

The most unusual request from a customer? "A bride and groom on a motorbike cake topper. I did manage to get one and nearly always succeed in sourcing things. There was also the request that one of my regular bakers had, to make a coffin wedding cake, also for a biker couple. I think it was quite tongue in cheek!"


A jewellery display at Masfina's.

Customer Christina Brown gives Cookmate the thumbs up, buying two bags of goodies for her cake-making business. "It's much cheaper than ordering from the internet and there's a much bigger range than in the supermarkets. It's fabulous." A real nod to the niche market. Long may it continue.

Around the corner, we came across a real gem: **Masfina's** designer jewellery. A delightful display of exquisite necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings, alongside an eclectic mix of beautiful gifts, the shop, with its brightly lit glass cabinets and glistening goods, draws you in.

There's Lily and Lotty diamond jewellery, amber from the Baltic ("the gold of the North"), a fine array of semi-precious jewellery set in sterling silver and a good selection of fresh water pearls. Lovelink beads are currently half-price, while stocks last. Masfina would like to wish all its customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Continuing around the bend past the displays of carpets and cockles, fresh fruit and veg and pet supplies, we come to **The Market 925 Cafe**, by now more than ready for a refreshing cuppa.

The cafe, with a sort of *Eastenders*-caff-cum-cosy-kitchen feel, does not disappoint. Under new management for the last year, in the capable hands of welcoming owner Roslyn Crocker and team, the menu is both appetising and highly competitive.

There are sumptuous sandwiches from as little as £2, wholesome faggots and peas with mash or chips and corned beef and steak and kidney pies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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All day breakfasts from £3.60.
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IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Offering service with a smile

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32)

Roslyn is also offering a very popular Lite Bites menu, giving hungry shopped-out customers the option of a quick, tasty meal, which is both lighter on the tummy and the purse. Regulars might still plump for their legendary all-day breakfast menu, which starts at a very palatable £3.60.

Had my husband been with me, he would undoubtedly have picked the Big Boys or Fully Loaded version to counteract his pre-Christmas shopophobia (the ubiquitous male curse). "I need something to de-stress me" he says, as soon as the High Street homes in; three sausages, three rashers of bacon, three eggs. Job done. And it gets them out from under our feet, ladies. Well worth £6.80.

I'll be despatching him to The Market 925 Cafe on a regular basis over the next few weeks. Pop the kettle on, will you, Roslyn?

If it's not a tool or a tasty treat, I find that anything with wheels will also appease the fractious chaps. Bridgend has much to offer in this respect. **Bridgend Van Centre** (BVC – clever, that. Sounds like BBC) is a family run business, with nearly 40 years experience in the motor trade, ably overseen by the experienced, accommodating and very affable Davies clan.

Selling light commercial vehicles up to 3.5 tons, transit vans and 4x4s ("Not so much the 'Chelsea tractors' – more traditional land rovers"), the three chaps at the helm, David, Gareth and Elliot, are "willing to go the extra mile to facilitate customer satisfaction" and pride themselves on " a friendly and highly professional business with unrivalled after sales customer service".

Elliot, who at just 20, boasts the expertise and business acumen of a man far senior, has an accomplished and welcoming telephone manner ("I worked in a call centre for a while") and an impressive and reassuring knowledge of their products.

"I've been involved really since the year dot. I grew up attending vehicle shows and dealerships with my dad and after gaining a diploma in accountancy and economics in Swansea, felt more than ready to join the business full time."

There's a warm welcome at Bridgend Van Centre.

Elliot says that their success is a result of being "selective, yes, picky even, about what we offer" and a "whole range of other things, including our personal warranties, which are not routinely offered in this business."

BVC was one of the first motor dealers in Wales to be regulated by the FCA and Elliot is keen to emphasise that every single one of their vehicles is "thoroughly checked and serviced to ensure a quality product."

Responsible for improving the company's online presence, Elliot has created a lively and inviting website, which even found me, unashamedly uninterested in cars and vans (unless it's to do with the colour: Tamar Blue, Beluga Brown or Balmoral Green. Now you're talking), browsing their pages with brio.

When I saw "accessories", my pulse really started racing, and despite a disappointing lack of handbags (see above), I was nevertheless fascinated by their "Frail sides", "Beacons" and "Parking Sensors." Well done, chaps.

Wheels are a must if you're out and about this Christmas and what better (and safer) way to travel over the season than being driven by someone else? **Easyway Mini Bus Hire** has been "providing a prompt and reliable minibus hire service throughout South Wales for over 25 years".

Owner Richard Morris, who took the company over from his father, has seen it expand over the years and prides himself on its "highly experienced and friendly chauffeurs" who provide a "professional service at highly competitive rates".

All of the minibuses are "immaculately presented" and the company caters for a wide range of needs: Christmas parties, hen and stag nights, airport transfers and school runs, including Cowbridge Comprehensive, and Heronsbridge School in Bridgend. They also have many elderly customers from various residential homes and are renowned for their patient and caring manner.

They have also had their brush with celebrity: Richard once picked up footballer Gareth Bale, who was warm and friendly and "chatting to his Granny on the phone while we travelled, wishing her happy birthday".

The company has CCTV in all its vehicles, offering security to all concerned through its 24-hour tracking service. Richard acknowledges that his business encourages passengers to 'offload' on the drivers sometimes, resulting in many secrets being shared – especially after late night parties.

"But the secrets always stay with us and don't go any further. We operate under a sort of drivers' Hippocratic oath," says Richard.

"We are friendly and approachable and entirely discreet".

Top marks, Easyway. And top marks, Bridgend. All set for truly record-breaking Christmas!

CAROLINE SARLL

Samantha Budd at Samantha B.

County borough has so much to offer, with business in mind

BRIDGEND, is not, of course, just a town. It is also a vibrant and varied county, boasting many other towns and villages, each with its own personality and USP.

My Yuletide yomp, purchasing aplenty as I browsed, saw me venturing into charmingly bucolic Ewenny, with its patriotic Daffodil Woods (Coed-y-Bwl) and its internationally famed pottery.

Had I the space, I would provide you with a 'potted' history (you know me by now: Pun Patron Supreme), but instead, I am going to take you into a world of class and country elegance, in the form of **Samantha B** boutique and its delightful owner, the eponymous Samantha Budd.

Stockist of a wide range of top-of-the-range labels, such as Poppy, Emreco, Oscar B, Marble, Adini and Olsen, Samantha has a loyal client base of ladies, who often span two generations. "It's lovely, because I often see a mother and daughter leaving with a garment or outfit each. That's very gratifying."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 34)

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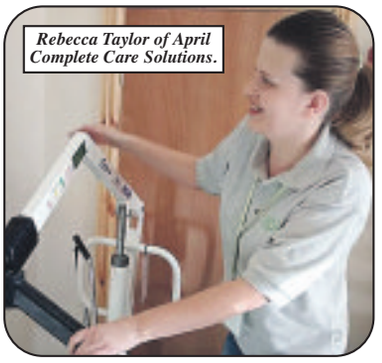
IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

PENCOED AND EWENNY ADD TO THE MIX



Rebecca Taylor of April Complete Care Solutions.

Caroline Evans of The Party House (back row, second right) at the World Balloon Convention in Denver.

The Rug House in Bridgend Market offers a huge variety of stock.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

A busy mother to three boys, Samantha confesses to having "dabbled in a bit of modelling in the past", an aptitude which clearly informs her current business ethos and discerning eye.

While admiring Samantha's range of beaded and handmade jewellery ("made locally" by an independent jeweller), serendipity sees me bumping into my former art teacher, Margaret Wooding, one-time head of art at Porthcawl Comprehensive.

She and Gaynor Lavelle, both regulars, are greeted like long lost friends (by all of us!) when they arrive with Gaynor's mother, Irene Andrews. "We like something a bit different" says Margaret, swiftly echoed by Gaynor: "I've already bought an Olsen jumper for the winter and have some gorgeous Marble trousers – a lovely skinny fit, but also warm".

The shop boasts an inviting armchair for customers (and hangdog husbands) to rest their feet and, in the run-up to Christmas, there will be a welcoming sherry ("served from a decanter in crystal glasses") and a warming mince pie.

Samantha knows that courtesy is the cachet of good business and always thanks her customers for their patronage. "I often throw in a complimentary piece of jewellery or scarf with an outfit and my customers are so appreciative".

Reciprocity at its best. Samantha also supports many charities, including Macmillan and Tenovus and has raised many thousands through her fashion shows. Crucially, in a world moving at breakneck speed, Samantha says she has "the patience of Job" and prides herself on knowing all her customers' names. Delightful.

Pencoed, which hosted the National Eisteddfod in 1998, is home to three lively ventures, all serving the community in different ways.

The Party House is the brainchild of former office manager, the very affable Caroline Evans, who has magically transformed her previous hardware shop into a thriving balloon business.

"We originally had buckets and mops, with just a few packets of balloons at the front. People kept asking me for more and whether I could make things out of them, so I thought I'd better get some training!"

Many years and a few Qualatex (leading manufacturer) courses later and Caroline's enterprise has, quite literally, ballooned. "We recently celebrated our 10th anniversary by taking part in the World Balloon Convention in Denver. It was such an honour to be invited as part of team GB".

Caroline has now become a reasonably accomplished "twister" and can make unusual and eyecatching shapes and balloon arrangements for children's parties, weddings, corporate events and other occasions.

The Party House, "a one-stop shop for all your balloon and partyware requirements" also sells banners, greetings cards and sprinkles for celebration tables.

Caroline, who is bursting (oops) with infectious enthusiasm and optimistic about expanding the business soon to include more gifts, is offering GEM readers 10 per cent off any bookings before the end of November. A real cause for celebration and a real Christmas treat.

Tip-top teeth are a must in creating a good impression over the party season. With clean and shiny pearly whites and finery from our featured boutiques, belle (and beau!) of the ball status is guaranteed. For an all-round, expert dental service, routine maintenance, orthodontics and cosmetic enhancement, look no further than the **Whitehouse Dental Practice,** run by partners Rhys Griffiths and Rob Davies (Dr Rob).

Dr Rob is the only dentist in Wales who is a full member of the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and one of the few dentists offering the contact lens-thin, A-lister Da Vinci veneers to give you that Hollywood smile.

Rhys, a qualified oral surgeon, took the practice over from his dad, Alan, and also works alongside his dentist wife, Nia. Both trained at the same time in Cardiff as other members of the team, so this family-run unit oozes genuine camaraderie, and a feelgood factor which is passed on to all patients.

Nia offers the added bonus of speaking Welsh and, should really anxious patients need it, the ability to soothe them with her exquisite harp playing, which has previously garnered her the coveted National Eisteddfod prize.

Happy clients include more than one Miss Wales and glowing testimonials on the practice website point to an outstanding, "life-changing" service. Rhys and Nia, who are currently awaiting a new addition to the family, stress the importance of regular dental care from a very young age and all-round education.

Top tips? "Parents shouldn't send their children to bed at night with a bottle of milk, thinking it's not harmful. The bacteria turns into sugars and will cause decay.

"For adults, flossing and electric toothbrushes are key, as is remembering not to brush for half an hour after eating anything. If you do, you are effectively brushing acid around your mouth".

Whitehouse Dental offers a range of His 'n' Hers wedding packages and a whole range of other packages and special offers. GEM readers will receive 10 per cent off tooth whitening with this article.

The practice also offers early morning appointments to busy workers, so that perfect smile, created in a caring, friendly, anxiety-free atmosphere is accessible to all.

Caring and community spirit are two key components of the ideal Christmas. One organisation helping to spread that message – all year round – is **April Complete Care Solutions**. Started by former nurse, Debra Hooper, the company has been providing care to nursing and residential homes, social services and private clients at home for almost 20 years.

"We also provide assistance to children with disabilities, clients with autism and MS and all kinds of other illnesses and needs," says accounts manager, Mathew Hughes.

The company offers "professional and friendly" round-the-clock care and is renowned for its integrity, client confidentiality and carefully selected, fully qualified nurses and carers.

Staff are rewarded through their Employee of the Month Scheme and at their annual awards evening in December, trophies are issued in acknowledgement of outstanding care, with nominations made by colleagues and clients.

The company also supports a number of charities, including Ty Hafan, Y Bont and many other local and national causes. "We would like to warmly welcome visitors to our Open Day on December 17," says Mathew, who will be entering into the Christmas spirit and donning his Santa costume.

"Representatives of The Dogs' Trust will be there, including a few four-legged ones and we will be taking donations of dog blankets and food."

Like many other care organisations, some staff will be working on Christmas Day, ensuring that their clients receive invaluable support at this special, but often hectic time of year. Altruism at its best.

I end my tour by returning to the heart of Bridgend town, to the welcome and warmth (figurative and literal – they have a new heating and air-con system!) of the cwtchy, come-hither market, with its vibrant and inviting patchwork of sensual sights and sounds and smells. This takes us all back to Bridgend's true heritage.

Nicola's Bookshop and Electricals offers an unusual combination: second hand books and electrical spares and parts for almost any appliance imaginable! "I do paperbacks from as little as 50p and carry a wide range of titles," says owner Nicola Thomas, who "curls up with a good book in bed" and " isn't keen on Kindles".

As well as washing machine, cooker and tumble drier parts, Nicola also stocks light bulbs and vacuum bags and belts and is "very competitively priced!" Crucially, Nicola also does batteries – vital for those electrical toys to work on Christmas Day.

Nicola is also looking forward to a busy January: "Equipment does go wrong over Christmas, so I have a healthy supply of customers seeking replacement parts".

Alastair Rosenberg, who runs **The Rug Stall** (established for 30 years) is unequivocal about the market's continuing appeal: "We all pull together here. There's a real sense of that old-fashioned community spirit. We all look out for one another here."

Alastair sells rugs and runners of all shapes, sizes and varieties, in every colour imaginable and at prices to suit all purses. Bathroom or bedroom, shaggy chic or shimmery, patterned and petalled, oval, square or round. In our increasingly fractured retail world, Alastair has succeeding in staying afloat.

"What sets us apart is our prices and our character. We offer incomparable value for money, infinite variety and, just as important, always a friendly smile and a chat".

The latter cannot be easy for this usually cheerful father of two, who, until very recently, ran the stall with the help of his wife and daughters.

Then earlier this year, tragedy struck. After a short and very unexpected illness, Alastair's wife, Marie, a former Army nurse and then midwife, passed away.

Talking to Alastair, the cruelty of Christmas hits home, something that most of us probably don't wish to hear. I lost my own father at Christmas time, when I was only eight, so I know how difficult and painful a time of year this can be.

We scurry and hurry and shop 'til we drop. But beneath all the frivolity and festive frippery, there is, for so many – the bereaved, the lonely, the elderly – a dreadful sense of loss. Alastair, professional in the extreme, chats to me with sincerity and insight about his business, but confesses that he is overwhelmed with grief behind closed doors.

"Our two daughters are at university. We were about to embark on a new phase in our lives, just the two us of together again, like a second childhood".

The GEM would like to express its heartelt condolences to Alastair and his family.

So, as the festive season begins, and the madness takes a hold, by all means enjoy it all and embrace all that Bridgend, and all our other lively towns have to offer. But please spare a thought – when you are stressed about must-have trinkets and trimmings – for those who are really in need.

Have a meaningful Christmas, one and all.

CAROLINE SARLL

Oak Field Primary pupils' 'sleep-over' at Urdd facilities

ON November 6-7, years-5 and 6 at Oak Field Primary School had the time of their lives 'sleeping over' at the Urdd facilities in the Wales Millenium Centre, at Cardiff Bay. The children went bowling and visited the Cardiff Bay Barrage, taking a river boat trip up the Taff to the iconic Millenium Stadium.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Course to help combat stress

BARRY Communities First, in partnership with Journeys Mental Health Charity, will be running a free stress and anxiety course on Tuesday, December 16 from 10am-4pm at the Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry.

Contact 01446 709432, email communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Barnardo's invite to carol service

THE Barnardo's committee (Barry) invites you to a coffee, carols and mince pie morning on Saturday, December 20 (10.30am-12 noon) at All Saints' Church Hall, Park Road, Barry.

Tickets, £2.50, are available from Mary Edmunds on 01446 735378.

Children help keep Dinas Powys safe!

SIX lucky children recently became 'bobbies' for the day and 'walked the beat' with PCSO Stuart Wilby.

"The youngsters worked closely with PCSO Wilby to make sure that the local community were all kept safe and well on Saturday, November 8, in Dinas Powys," a spokeswoman reported.

PCSO Wilby told them about her role as a Police Community Support Officer and afterwards commented: "The youngsters were wonderful – they had a very strong sense of what is right and wrong.

"I hope that by spending some time as a PCSO that the children gained a better understanding of the work that we do. You never know – they may be going after my job in a few years!"

What's on, and where?

Hospice Lights to Remember

THE annual Marie Curie Lights To Remember will be held on December 4 at 6pm in the Marie Curie hospice, Penarth.

"This gives an opportunity to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one and then join us for the switching on of our Christmas lights, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. We will also be able to enjoy a few songs from Caryl Parry Jones," a spokeswoman said.

If you would like to dedicate a light and attend on the night contact Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR; call the fundraising office on 02920 426068.

Fishing lecture

THE Cowbridge History Society's next lecture on Friday, December 5 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, is entitled 'Traditional Fishing in Wales', by Dylan Jones (Senior Curator, National History Museum). Wine and mince pies to follow! ***All welcome!***

A Christmas celebration

Cowbridge Choral Society is holding a Christmas celebration concert in Holy Cross church on Saturday, December 6, at 7pm.

The choir will be conducted by Carole Lloyd, director of music, and accompanied by Geoff Howells in a programme of traditional carols as well as some lesser-known pieces.

There will be several special guests performing to get everyone int the Christmas spirit.

Tickets available from Davies newsagent in Cowbridge, or the box office (01446 792175).

The society rehearses every Thursday at 7.30pm in the United Free Church, Westgate St (opposite police station); all are welcome.

Carols by Candlelight

ALL Saints' Church, Barry is the venue for 'Carols by Candlelight' on December 6 at 6.30pm with Amici Choral Group led by Mike Page.

All Saints' choir girl Chloe John performs with Amici. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available during the interval along with a raffle.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, priced at £8 adults and £2 children under 12. All proceeds to All Saints' Church funds.

LATCH benefit

THERE will be mulled wine with mince pies and music in aid of LATCH and All Saints' Church on December 6 from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

The entrance fee of £3 will include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie at All Saints' main hall in Victoria Square; gift stalls, raffle, tea and coffee available.

Park crafts

RANGERS at Porthkerry Country Park are holding a Christmas craft session at the Forest Lodge, making models and decorations using natural materials.

All are welcome at the drop-in session on December 6 from 1pm to 3pm; cost £3. No booking is necessary;children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the Rangers on 01446 733589 or email Porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

White Ribbon campaign

THE Vale Council will host an event on December 10 to celebrate White Ribbon Day and to launch the White Ribbon campaign.

This will raise awareness and understanding of domestic violence.

The event will follow directly on from a domestic violence forum meeting and comes after the Vale cabinet agreed to implement both a domestic abuse policy and an anti-social behaviour policy, which will come into effect in January.

Cor Bro Ogwr in concert

COR Bro Ogwr's answer to Gareth Malone, new conductor Nick Bromilow, has been cracking the choral whip for his first concert with Cor Bro Ogwr on December 13.

It's a varied programme, showcasing the versatility of the choir in tackling challenging choral pieces – in this case, John Rutter's *Magnificat* – but also enjoying Christmas carols: some old, some new, some Welsh; and excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*.

The orchestra will be The British Sinfonietta, soprano soloist is Jessica Robinson and accompanist is Glenn Crooks, who will be performing in his own concert in January together with our conductor Nick, who will be playing the French horn. More about that later!

The concert is in All Saints' Church, Porthcawl at 7.30p. Tickets £10 at the door, from choristers, or on 01656 653326; www.cor-bro-ogwr.com.

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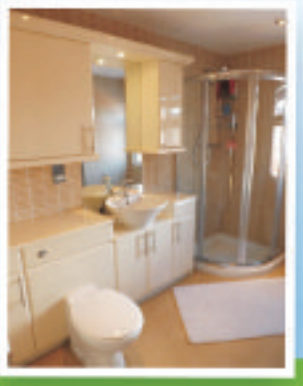

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Left to right with Richard meyrick are: Millicent Evans, Ella Edwards, Owain Evans, Lowri Rees and Abigail Linforth.

PUPILS' FUNDRAISING TARGET FOR APPEALS

Pianoman visits Brynteg music students.

Santa Appeal

IT'S that time of year again where Brynteg pupils rally and start fundraising in aid of the Santa Appeal. Now in its 20th year, the Santa Appeal aims to raise money to support families in Bridgend who find Christmas a difficult time of year financially.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will be raising money to be able to go out and buy presents for nearly 200 children within the Bridgend area and will deliver them to Social Services on the last day of school before Christmas.

Last year, pupils raised over £6,000 for the Santa Appeal and this year we are determined to raise even more!

Children in Need

YEAR-8 pupils really got behind the Children In Need cause; several pupils organised cake sales throughout the week and on Friday morning the whole of year-8 had a CHIN sing-a-long.

They all sang the official song 'Wake Me Up' by Avici, Gareth Malone would have been proud of them!

The grand total collected from the school, which included various activities and non-uniform for the day, was £1,577.46.

Christmas Shoebox

ONCE again Brynteg pupils and staff have shown their caring and sharing side for this appeal.

Miss Jarrett (head of health and social care) is delighted with the response to this year's 'Shoe Box Appeal.'

In total she now has 50 boxes all ready to be sent abroad so that disadvantaged children from other countries can experience the joy of receiving gifts this Christmas.

PD

Pianist gives masterclass

NOVEMBER 4 saw the music department at Brynteg host for the second time, the London-based concert pianist Richard Meyrick – the Pianoman.

Richard entertained and inspired year-7 and the GCSE music classes with thrilling performances of Chopin and Beethoven during his visit to school.

The main purpose of his visit, however, was to put some of Brynteg's own talented pianists through their paces in a public piano masterclass. The five Brynteg pupils, ranging from years 7 to 11 certainly did us proud, providing between themselves a rich programme from the modern pianist's repertoire.

Richard's energy and obvious desire to instill into our pianists that they should only ever accept the very best for themselves and their performance left valuable food for thought for all the musicians and audience in attendance.

Well done to all the pianists involved – we hope to perhaps see you on stage in the Wigmore Hall one day.

HOPES DASHED FOR BRACKLA STATION

HOPES that the Welsh Government will fund a new railway station at Brackla have been dashed by the answer to an Assembly question from the Minister for the economy, transport and science.

Plans for a new station were included in the Welsh Government's transport plans published in 2010. A SEWTA rail strategy report from March 2013 also suggested that a new Brackla station would be served by the current hourly Maesteg service, then by future half-hourly Maesteg trains or by local stopping services between Cardiff Central and Swansea.

However, in a written answer to a question tabled by Welsh Liberal Democrats transport spokesperson, Eluned Parrott, the Minister responded that "Network Rail have advised that it is not possible to deliver a new station at Brackla at the present time."

Welsh Lib-Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, described this latest development as a major blow to the area and to the local economy: "The then-Minister for the Environment, Planning and Transport, Sue Essex, held a "turf-cutting ceremony" for the new Brackla railway station in March 2001. That is over 13 and a half years ago. In that time at least 9 new stations have been constructed in south Wales, including Llanharan, a few miles from Brackla and at least another four stations are in the pipeline.

"The truth appears to be that a new station at Brackla has not been a Welsh Government priority. Nor has investment in upgrading the Tondu passing loop that would increase the capacity for more services to benefit Brackla," he said.

"The question the Minister needs to answer is why Bridgend is such a low priority for this sort of investment by the Welsh Government?

"I will be writing to the Minister to ask her to reconsider and to look at whether this sort of work can be scheduled at the same time as the electrification of the mainline so as to get maximum benefit from that upgrade."

Closure of the community centre inspires artist's work

REGIONAL Conservative AM Judy Davies has opened an exhibition by an Aberkenfig artist, who ran a successful community project which helped local children.

The art exhibition at the Senedd.

Julie Lyddon, who paints under the name of 'Nin', took to art to express her frustration at the closure of Eco Dysgu at Tondu, following a dispute with Bridgend County Borough Council. As a result, this forced the environmental education centre at Tondu House to close.

Julie founded the organisation which helped children find a different, non-academic path, and took up painting to express her feeling.

The result is an exhibition called "Our Voices, Our Communities" which is in the foyer of the Senedd in Cardiff until November 28.

Julie told those attending the opening that 6,000 young people had passed through Eco Dysgo until its closure in 2013 and it had picked up many awards, also being visited by the Prince of Wales.

"Those children are now ten years older in many cases and I hope that they will go forward confident in their own stories following the help we gave them. There is hope for the future through them."

Suzy Davies, Shadow Welsh culture and heritage Minister, said she was delighted to sponsor the exhibition: "I sit on a committee at the Assembly which deals with education but school is not always the only way to reach young people. Community organisations like Eco Dysgu are able to do that, which is why I support them.

"Bureaucratic blunders and a proprietorial attitude by this local authority to taxpayers' money destined for the community, let down this award-winning organisation with a record of turning lives around.

"The borough is the poorer for the loss of Eco Dysgu, but it has left an inspiring legacy – young people who understand that they can do things for themselves and who do not want to grow up into the benefits culture."

PORTHCAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

A total of £650 raised for Alzheimer's Society

SINCE my last report all our groups have been in action – literary, crafts and luncheon and an indoor games group has started with a small keen group of members enjoying the old games.

Our autumn fayre at the end of last month raised £650 for the local Alzheimer's Society which I am sure they will appreciate.

I laid our wreath on Remembrance Sunday – the first time for me and a great honour. The church was packed because of the 100 year commemmoration of the start of World War One.

Our November meeting took the form of a crafts demonstration afternoon led by Freda Rodger and her craft group. A very good afternoon – even I managed to make some things and I am very cackhanded!

We are now looking forward to two Christmas lunches before our December meeting which will be our Christmas party with entertainment by the Gilgal Bell Ringers. Do come along on December 10 at 2pm, All Saints Church Hall, you will be most welcome.

Dorothy Thomas

PACT meetings

CAERAU PACT, December 1 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT, December 1 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT, December 3 at Nazareth Cahpel at 6pm.

SARN cuppa with a copper, December 8 at Sarn Life Centre at 2pm.

YNYSAWDRE PACT, December 10 at Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6pm.

BETTWS PACT, December 11 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

LLANGYNWYD PACT, December 15 at Llangynwyd Village Hall at 6pm.

FESTIVE AIR AT WI

CHRISTMAS started early for the many members of Southerndown WI who braved the November storms to attend the last meeting.

As soon as the president, Meryl, had completed the formal parts of the meeting, we split into groups for a craft evening, during which time Christmas decorations were made.

Mulled wine and mince pies assisted with the creativity, and the more experienced crafters provided guidance for those who needed it. Meryl had provided information on the many celebratory activities taking place during 2015 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute in the UK.

Our next meeting is being held on December 11 at 7.15pm in St Brides Major Church Hall, where new members are always welcome. The first meeting of the new year is on Thursday, January 8 at 7.15pm. Come along and help us celebrate *our centenary!* **PM**

'IT WAS FABULOUS – WE WERE THRILLED TO MEET UP AGAIN'

Rhoose woman's joyful reunion with the generous donor who gave her gift of life

A grandmother from South Wales has been reunited with the stranger who saved her life 30 years ago.

Catherine Naylor was just 36 when she was diagnosed with leukaemia and given a year to live. She had a devoted husband and three young children

She was told her only chance of survival was a bone marrow transplant. But, it was the 1980s and, at the time, Catherine was told this was a new procedure which had never been tried in a patient with her condition – Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML).

She was also told that there was just a one in 70,000 chance of finding a matching donor.

Incredibly, a willing donor was found on the Anthony Nolan register. Sara Davies, then 29, agreed to donate and give a stranger the chance of life.

Catherine beat all of the odds and the bone marrow transplant was a success. Thanks to Sara, 30 years on Catherine is healthy and has had the chance to see her daughters marry and to meet her grandchildren

And last month, the pair were reunited after Sara's husband, Roger, secretly invited Catherine to his wife's 60th birthday party.

Catherine said: "If Sara hadn't given me her bone marrow I wouldn't have seen my children grow up or my grandchildren born. You can't imagine what it feels like to have someone do that for you – there aren't any words for it.

"It was absolutely magical to see her again - it was lovely. I was thrilled to see her and we had a wonderful time."

Catherine, now 67, from Rhoose, near Barry, was diagnosed with CML in November 1983 after suffering from stomach cramps and tiredness.

Initially, doctors thought she just had indigestion but, eventually, tests revealed her spleen had swelled to the size of a rugby ball and she was given the devastating news that she had leukaemia and would not live for more than a year. At the time, her children were just nine, 12 and 13.

Catherine underwent a year of gruelling treatment and was told that a bone marrow transplant was her only chance of survival.

Her siblings were tested to see if they were a match for her, but neither of them were.

As a result, her doctors said her only chance was to find an unrelated donor through Anthony Nolan, which was only established in 1974 and had far fewer potential donors on its register than it does today.

Catherine was also told that no one with CML in the UK had ever had a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor.

Catherine, who was treated at University Hospital of Wales, in Cardiff, said: "It was a horrible, horrible shock. I just wanted to grab my children and go on a long holiday but my husband, Graham, was so positive that it rubbed off on me and I began to believe I could get better."

Amazingly, Anthony Nolan was able to find a matching donor for Catherine.

Sara Davies, now 60, from Petersfield in Hampshire, joined the Anthony Nolan donor register in her early 20s after learning that her father might need a bone marrow transplant for Aplastic Anaemia.

The dental hygienist says that she never expected to be asked to donate but that she was excited and positive when she received the message that she was needed to help save someone's life.

Selflessly, Sara agreed to donate and travelled to Cardiff to do so. This was before new methods of donation had been developed, so Sara stayed in hospital for five days as she was required to have a general anaesthetic. Now, 90 per cent of stem cell donations take place via a simple outpatient procedure which is very similar to giving blood.

At the time, rules about donor-patient anonymity were yet to be established and so Sara and Catherine were able to meet in the hospital.

Sara said: "It was absolutely fine – in the whole scheme of things the operation was just one of those things.

"I was also able to meet Catherine's family, which was wonderful. I was so touched by the experience that five years later I named my daughter, Katherine, after Catherine."

Thanks to Sara's generous donation, the transplant took place on January 16, 1985, and it was a success.

Catherine said: "It worked and that was the main thing but it is like a dream – I can't believe it happened. I can still remember being in the hospital bed and I was given so much treatment before the transplant that I had no immune system so I was told that if a fly landed on me, that would be it."

Catherine spent almost three months in hospital after the transplant but she and Sara remained in touch.

They continued to write to each other and Sara even attended the wedding of one of Catherine's daughters.

But, despite continuing to send cards and letters, the pair stopped seeing each other as their busy lives took over.

Then, to mark the 30th anniversary of the transplant, Sara's husband, Roger, invited Catherine to his wife's 60th birthday party in September this year.

Sara and Catherine met again in London for the first time in 25 years. It's also the same year that the Anthony Nolan charity celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Catherine said: "It was a surprise – it was a lovely, lovely thought. It was fabulous and we were thrilled.

"Roger was brilliant – Sara didn't know anything about it. He did very well!"

Sara added: "It was a total surprise to me. I recognised her immediately and realised what Roger had planned – it was fabulous. It was just amazing and very emotional.

"Roger got lots of Brownie points! It has rekindled the friendship with Catherine. Donating was a very important part of my life – it is one of the things I have been most proud of."

Anthony Nolan has given 13,000 people the chance of life since it was established in 1974. The charity has recently launched its 'Thank You Stranger' campaign to celebrate four decades of saving strangers' lives. Could you help save a stranger's life by supporting Anthony Nolan? Visit www.anthonynolan.org/thankyoustranger

ABOVE: The ladies 30 years ago when Catherine's life was hanging in the balance.

ABOVE: Sara (left) and Catherine were thrilled to met up recently.

SHANNON AND RHYS ARE IN LINE FOR VOLUNTEER AWARD

TWO local volunteers have been shortlisted as finalists in this year's prestigious Sport Wales Awards. Teenagers Shannon Heard and Rhys Young, who are both studying for their A-levels, are in the running for the 'Young Volunteer of the Year' prize in Wales' biggest annual celebration of elite and grassroots sport.

The pair both give up hours of their time each week to help others take part in sport and physical activity. Shannon is a Maesteg Comprehensive School pupil who has already accumulated five years' coaching experience, despite her young age.

She originally became involved in her school's 5x60 sports programme, helping out at extra-curricular sports clubs, before she progressed to being part of Bridgend County Borough Council's Sports Leadership Programme.

The scheme has enabled her to obtain various coaching qualifications, and she puts those skills to good use as a part-time gymnastics coach, lifeguard and swimming instructor and leads an initiative at her school which aims to tackle any barriers that put girls off taking part in sport.

Shannon is also one of the council's Young Ambassadors, recruited to motivate other school pupils to get their trainers on, get down their local leisure centre, join a sports club, or generally be more active.

Describing her love of coaching, the 17-year-old said: "I love seeing someone do well, getting something out of it and progressing to the next level. I also love sport and like to give something back."

Pencoed Comprehensive School student Rhys has been volunteering for just over a year and has already had a big impact on his school and community. Like Shannon, Rhys is also a Young Ambassador and actively supports his schools 5 x 60 programme, helping to create girls-only football sessions. He also volunteers on a 'learn to cycle' programme in his local primary school and is an assistant coach for the junior section at Bridgend Athletics Club.

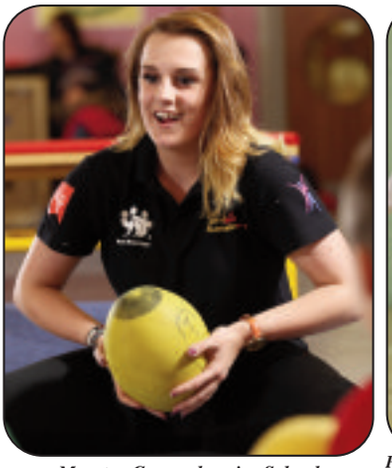
Rather than finding his busy schedule exhausting, Rhys thinks it has made him more efficient. He said: "I'm well motivated because I love sport and it never feels like a chore. When I was doing my GCSEs, having to coach helped to de-stress me and use my time better. Volunteering helps me learn and I gain more experience every time."

The Wales Sports Awards are organised in partnership by Sport Wales and BBC Wales, and the winners will be announced at the Sport Wales National Centre in Cardiff on December 8.

Two other residents are in the running for awards – Porthcawl's Sam Moore has been shortlisted for the 'Coach to Disabled People' award for the work he does in teaching swimming and surfing.

Paul Jenkins, from Bettws, is also a contender in that category for the success he has achieved as a coach at the South Wales Pirates Wheelchair Rugby Club.

You can find out more about the awards at www.walessportawards.co.uk.



Maesteg Comprehensive School pupil Shannon Heard.

Pencoed Comprehensive School student Rhys Young.

Christmas concert

A CHRISTMAS concert with carols will be held at Cowbridge United Free Church (Ramorth Chapel) on Friday, December 5 at 7.30pm.

The concert will feature locally based Cor Meibion y Machlud, with a trio of young soloists.

Huw Jones (soprano) and Rhys Wardaugh (harp) will be joined by Hannah Morgan, who is studying at the Guildford School of Music. Hannah sang previously with the choir at last year's Christmas charity concert at the United Free Church.

This year's Christmas concert is in aid of Save the Children's Syrian Refugees Fund, and follows on from last year's successful fundraising for the Philippines disaster. Admission will be free, and if you attend you will be invited to make a contribution to the charity. As an added incentive, there will be mince pies and mulled wine available, and of course a chance for you to sing along with some of your favourite Christmas carols!

RK

Cross country success for Kenfig cadets!

Wing Commander Stones and Cadet Johns.

CADETS from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets were really pleased the wet weather predicted for the weekend held off on Sunday, November 23, as they took part in the Inter Squadron Cross Country Run.

CI Paul Dixon was in charge of the cadets and was really pleased when three of the cadets, Cadet Johns, Cadet Clarke and Cadet Willoughby were selected to go forward to represent No 3 Welsh Wing at RAF Cosford.

Cadet Johns came third and was presented with her medal by Wing Commander Mike Stones.

Lindsay Thomas
Secretary Civilian Committee

PORTHCAWL UNDER-16S TEAM UP WITH LOCAL COMPANY

PORTHCAWL RFC are delighted to announce The Print Centre will continue to be the main kit sponsor for the under - 16s squad.

The Print Centre has been established for over 10 years in Cardiff and recently expanded to include a premises in Lias Road, Porthcawl.

The sponsorship deal will mean The Print Centre's logo will take pride of place on the front of the under-16s' matchday kit.

Under-16s head coach, and junior section chairman, Andrew Richards, said: "The whole club is thrilled by the long-standing relationship and support of The Print Centre. I would personally like to thank Mark and Alison Williams for their continued commitment to what is proving to be a successful squad, having won the Ospreys Cup last season."

Mark Williams commented: "Our sponsorship of the under-16s is providing us with an excellent opportunity to get our brand out there and I am delighted that we are maintaining the same level of support this season."

"We are a community club and it's extremely important to us to have the support of local individuals and businesses," said Tracey Williams, assistant secretary at Porthcawl RFC.

For details on how you can become a sponsor please contact tracey@porthcawlrfc.com.

TW

Athletic RFC teach Kenfig Hill a friendly lesson

CHAMPIONSHIP side Bridgend Athletic entertained the leaders of Division 1 West Central Kenfig Hill, who are coached by former Athletic director of rugby Paul Yardley and are on course to possibly join the Athletic in the Championship next season.

Previously Kenfig Hill had only lost one fixture this season and had secured a number of bonus point victories. The visitors were taught a harsh lesson in the gulf between the Championship and Division 1 as the Athletic ran in seven unanswered tries on the night in a comprehensive 43-0 victory.

The Athletic pack were on top from the off dominating territory. After five minutes they drove a five metre line out over the whitewash for prop Wayne Fooks to secure the first Athletic try.

Despite constant pressure they were unable to break down a resolute Mules' defence until in the 35th minute; the Athletic duplicated the first try with Fooks again the forward with the ball in his hands as the pack drove over the try line.

Kenfig Hill at last exerted some late pressure in the half and their wing was only just hauled into touch two metres from the Athletic try line.

The Athletic line out drive was proving difficult for Kenfig Hill to halt and this time from 10 metres out lock Griff Davies peeled away from a drive to cross for the third Athletic try.

This signalled the catalyst for the Athletic backs to open up and start carving huge holes in the Mules defence. First wing Rhys Ward Jones ran in from 40 metres for a try, converted by Scott Govan, to open up a 22-0 lead.

There then followed three tries in five minutes of a similar nature. Centre Ryan Owen ran in from 40 metres out. He then broke from a similar distance handing supporting flanker Ben Howe a try under the posts.

Next, centre Marvin Cordle broke the defensive line and handed Howe his second try; Govan converted the first two and Dan Howells the third.

The Mules coach Paul Yardley conceded after the game the gulf between the Championship and Division 1 in both speed of thought and action and had expected a really hard game for his side.

He was, however, disappointed in seeing his side's heads drop in the second half when the Athletic were running the ball from everywhere.

The club are really pleased with the way former Athletic players scrum half Rhys Webb and hooker Scott Baldwin, have performed in this season's autumn internationals. Webb turned in a 9/10 performance against the All Blacks and scored a well worked try.

Some pundits put Wales' demise down to him leaving the field injured, to a standing ovation, and the Welsh losing momentum with the pace he set for the game which troubled the All Blacks; he is now acknowledged by some as the top scrum half in Wales, seeing off a highly-respected British Lion in Mike Phillips.

Scott Baldwin has come on leaps and bounds since securing the No 1 spot at the Ospreys and is breathing down the neck of his predecessor, Richard Hibbard, for the Welsh jersey. **AB**

Porthcawl RFC rugby round-up

PORTHCAWL under-8s faced off against Treorchy on Sunday.

This time our up front defence was quick off the mark, getting the tags before Treorchy could get their running game going, with Dexter, Lewis, Lex, Theo, Oscar and Dewi all getting in their faces and getting the tags with great line speed, keeping our lines more often than not after each tag.

Although we leaked the first try our heads stayed high and in our first play we started to pass before tagging and hitting the space playing great rugby, resulting in Dewi going over in the corner. We then traded tries up to halftime when Theo scored in the corner.

We then leaked a couple of well worked tries but we never gave up and came back with two great tries from Oscar and Ryan.

The second game was against Bridgend Sports who earlier this season had beaten us by two tries but in this game we showed our rugby skills by moving the ball and running at space how far our skills have come, scoring some great tries.

We had Bridgend reeling with our line speed with Lewis leading the way, picking up top tagger, the only player making the magic 10 tags mark, closely followed by Lex and Dewi.

Another player full of running and taking the mantle of a defensive champion was Dexter who picked up the individual achievement for his direct running and calling the defensive lines now two weeks in a row, showing some great leadership on the field.

Another leader on the field was Lewis who not only picked up top tagger but his running was also sublime, picking up two tries. Lex for his effort in attack and defence picked up clubman, making a difference to the team with his passing, running and tagging.

Another player brimming with confidence at the moment is Oscar, increasing his tagging count but now running with confidence; we saw a sidestep and a shimmy and not only did he come away with two tries but he also earned the top try scorer award not just for his tries, but passes he put in for others to score.

Theo, Ryan and Sam all put in some good runs, and all were rewarded with a try, Ryan scoring two.

The biggest achievement was the team performance, where each player is improving week on week, and they are finally understanding the pass and move philosophy we are trying to bring.

This week we are home to Bryncethin and then on December 6 we have our Christmas special halftime at Aberavon while on December 7 we are away to Llantwit Fadre.

Try scorers: Oscar (2), Dewi, Lewis (2), Ryan (2), Samuel, Lex, Theo.

RH

PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-9S 4, NANTYFFYLLON 8

With half of our team missing this might have been a long day at the office, especially as Nantyffyllon are a very well organised group of very vocal keen individuals and, with very large numbers, set about there task as you would expect.

Our usual habit of conceding of early tries continued. We were never really outdone in any department, but we always trailed. We were a controlled unit playing to our strengths. The main strength is a 'never say die' attitude - we just keep on going.

Our offloading in the second half was brilliant, and we need to convert our lengthy runs of possession into more points more often. Credit must never be taken from our opponents for the part they played. With all that said, as a team we grew in stature. When we asked the players to step up to the plate they did! A very inspiring performance indeed from everyone.

With the likes of Jac Bevan and Max Williams in your team something special is never that far away, as was the case today with their four breathtaking tries.

Some very valuable game time for Jack Childs and Max Thomas saw them grow into their respective roles as the game opened up, and that's the standard they will be judged by from now on.

There was powerful and determined play from Dylan Bell and Rory Lampard up front, beautifully controlled by Josh Bowring at scrum half, while Luis Mullins and the still suffering Sam Buckley provided a very steady base for the less glamorous duties of attack and defence, and were always in the thick of it - a superb individual and team effort from all of them.

Try scorers: Jac Bevan (3), Max Williams.

JP

GILFACH GOCH 10 PORTHCAWL UNDER-10S 60

Try scorers: Stefan Yardley (5), Josh Woodbridge (2), Rhys Tunnadine (2), Will Jarman (2), Joe Dingle.

UNDER 16S - TONDU RFC 12 PORTHCAWL RFC 14 (OSPREYS CUP)

Porthcawl RFC now move in to the quarter finals, while Porthcawl RFC 2nd XV won 29-7 against British Airways.

TW

Busy Sunday for the Sports

BRIDGEND Sports under-9s hosted Treorchy and were joined by Nelson for Sunday's home fixture.

The visiting supporters made their presence felt as the three games proved highly competitive with young players from all sides determined to impress.

In the first game of the morning the Sports took the field against the Zebras. Defences were on top in the first quarter, with both sides turning over ball to their opponents as the defensive lines closed play down quickly.

The home side broke the deadlock with a try from Dylan Morgan, who was making a welcome return to the ranks from injury; he received the ball 10 metres out and carved his way through the Treorchy defence to score.

The home side harried and pressurised Treorchy into errors from the restart and having retaken possession Bridgend players mounted several attacks through good passing and support. Tyron Davies, Mason Balmer, Mackenzie Dent, Dewi Worrall, Jodie Keane and Dylan Morgan were ever present. A second try soon followed with Dewi Worrall scoring out wide to make the half time score 2-0.

The Sports started the second half having made a number of changes to the side. They continued to dominate the game. Callum Lewis popped up in several attacks ably supported by Dylan Morgan, Tyron Davies and Ben King who charged forward.

Callum Lewis was rewarded for his efforts with a try as he set off on a run beating several players from five metres out. Treorchy hit back immediately with a try from Mackenzie Davies.

The final score of the game was scored by the tireless Tyron Davies from the home team, following good support work from Callum Lewis, Morgan Edwards, Iestyn John and Alex Stimpson. The game finished Bridgend Sports 4, Treorchy 1.

Treorchy and Nelson played each other next in a highly competitive game. The lead changed hands on several occasions before ending in a 4-4 draw; tries for Treorchy were scored by Dylan Owen, Evan Williams, Cian Grifiths and Luke Morgan, with Nelson tries scored by Carwyn Payne (2), Logan Yendal and Dan Taylor.

To conclude a highly competitive morning of rugby Bridgend Sports took on Nelson. The home team were made to work hard, as Nelson took the lead with an early try, despite the best efforts of Dewi Worrall and Tyron Davies to tackle their opponents.

The Sports hit back immediately with a try from Dylan Morgan who sliced his way through the Nelson defence to score.

Nelson showed resilience by scoring from the restart, as the home defence failed to be alert. Back came the Sports with Mason Balmer and Mackenzie Dent setting off on charging runs and then linking with Callum Lewis, Jodie Keane, Alex Stimpson and Tom Chick, with the latter just failing to score out wide.

Following a further period of attacking rugby the ball was worked wide to home team player Tyron Davies to score the try to level the scores. Solid tackling from Callum Lewis, Dylan Morgan and Dewi Worrall then kept Nelson at bay.

Eventually the ball was turned over as Tom Chick gained the ball on the ground. The Sports now retained possession and attacked wide through Alex Stimpson who scored the next try for the Sports to end the half 3-2 up.

In the final period of the game both teams fought hard to try and take the spoils and both sides scored a try apiece. Thomas Coles scored for the Sports and Logan Yendal for Nelson.

The Sports youngsters deserved the win and showed what they can achieve when the team works hard together and for each other.

Training takes place every Wednesday at 6pm down at the Bandstand field - players are always welcome to join and learn in a fun environment.

SP

Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, November 19, second round of club pairs - First, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; Second, Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox; Third, Rob Forman and Alan Heath. Winners on handicap - Rob Forman and Alan Heath.

Overall winners of event and club pairs champions - Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage

Friday, November 21 - First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Second John Beard and Deborah Davies; Third John Henson and Terry Dolan. Winners on handicap - Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced bridge players where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for November 13 were Colin Lewis, Stuart Davies, Frances Heslin, Dee Finch, Paul Lyne, Peter Morgan and Michael Williams.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall, these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play.

It is still possible to book a place on the course - for further information contact John Evans on 01656 880372. There will not be a session on November 27.

DN

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EVANS
Margaret 'Nest'

Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, on Friday November 21, Nest, aged 83 years, of Barry, (retired nurse and midwife from Mount Pleasant Hospital and Singleton Hospital, Swansea), loving twin sister of Carys Howe and loving sister of the late Wyn Evans, amazing Auntie to many.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday December 5, service 12.30pm at Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road, Barry, followed by interment in Barry Cemetery. Family flowers may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to NSPCC c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

JONES
David Trevor

Suddenly on November 22, David (Dai) of Llanmaes, former teacher at Llantwit Major and Barry Comprehensive Schools. Loving husband of Carol, much loved father of the late Steffan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday December 2, service 2pm at Llanmaes Church followed by a private cremation. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to LATCH c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Roy Charles Fido

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Sadly missed by your wife Rosalie and all your dear family. XXX

Family Notices

MORRIS
Carl Thomas

Ann and Lauren wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the overwhelming support given to them on the loss of Carl, a devoted husband and father.

Also, for the many cards, flowers and memories of Carl expressed so freely and fondly.

THOMAS
Rita *(née Hopkins)*

Peacefully on November 16 in hospital, Rita of Boverton. Beloved wife of the late Ken, loving mam to Rod and Siân, a devoted nanny to Sam and Emily, a much loved great grandmother to Josh, and a dearly loved sister and aunt.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, December 2 at 2.45pm.

Flowers or donations for the Stroke Association may be sent to the Funeral Home.

BONNICK
Albert Edward (Bert)

Peacefully on 24 November, Bert of St Athan. Dearly loved husband of the late Aline and a loving and much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Funeral service on Wednesday, 3 December in Coychurch Crematorium at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Ty Hafan c/o the Funeral Director. All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major 01446 792489.

DAWE
Barrie

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on November 14th. Barrie of St Andrews Road, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Deryn, much loved father of Jane, Helen and husband Ed, adored grampy of Chloe, Sam and Paige. Barrie will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service at All Saints Church, Barry on Monday, December 1st at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3.45pm. Family flowers only.

GOODBOURN
Mabel Jean

Peacefully on November 14, 2014 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, Mabel of Lake Hill Drive, Cowbridge, sadly passed away with great dignity. A much loved wife, mother, grandmother and a dear friend to many.

Resting at Maesgwyn Funeral Home until the service on Tuesday, December 2 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12pm.

Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Maesgwyn Funeral Home, Main Road, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 1PY. Telphone enquiries to 01443 202058.

THOMAS
Evelyn

Passed away peacefully after a short illness, on November 22 at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Eve, formerly of 36 Boverton Brook, Llantwit Major, and latterly of Brocastle Manor Care Home, was the much loved mum of Meryl and Jan, dear mother-in-law of Mark and devoted gran of Katie, Tomas, Lewys and Megan.

She is already greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of Thomas Bros, St Brides. The funeral service is at 12 noon on December 4 at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to The Stroke Association, Stroke Association House, 240 City Road, London EC1V 2PR.

HOPKINS
Connie

Formerly of Castle Close, Boverton. Quietly passed away on November 21, aged 83.

Funeral to be held at Bridgend Crematorium on Friday December 5 at 1.15pm. Missed by family and friends. Family flowers only.

OLDFIELD
Jane

Late of Llantwit Major & St. Nicholas. Dearly beloved daughter of Anne & Dennis. Proud mother of Joshua.

After a long illness bravely borne, peacefully on November 23 in Prospect Hospice close to her home in Cricklade, Wiltshire.

'She is sorely missed'.

WHITE
Derrick William Charles "Chalky" MBE

Derrick William Charles "Chalky" White MBE, 91, formerly of Boverton, Llantwit Major passed away in his sleep on Thursday, 6th November at his home in Clyne Common, Swansea after a brief illness following heart surgery earlier in the year.

He will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Services will be held at 11am, Wednesday, 3rd December at St Peters Church, Newton, Swansea followed by cremation at Swansea Crematorium, Morriston, Swansea. Relatives and friends are welcome at the service and the reception at The Valley Hotel, 41 Bishopston Road following it, from 1.45pm.

Family flowers only. Donations are welcome, and should be made to the British Heart Foundation c/o Cooperative Funeral Care, 1-2 Stanley Street, Mumbles SA3 4NE.

WITCHELL
Daniel Thomas

Sadly on November 14th 2014 at his home in Scotland, Daniel, aged 35, passed away.

Loving son of Jane and the late Nigel Witchell, brother of David, much loved uncle, nephew and cousin. Will be missed by many friends in Scotland and Wales.

Funeral Monday, December 1st at Bridgend Crematorium 2.15pm.

Donations in lieu, if desired, to Mind Cymru c/o David Witchell.

BURDER
Joyce

Peacefully with her family at her home in Cowbridge, Joyce, beloved wife of the late Clive, dearly loved mother of Mark, Louise and Adrian. Dear mother-in-law of Mary and Jill and a much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, December 1st at 2pm, followed by interment at The Limes Cemetery, Cowbridge. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers to be sent to Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

EDWARDS
Linda

Peacefully on November 20th, with her family, Linda, loving wife of the late Bob, much loved mother of Tim and Peter, adored grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Wednesday, December 3rd at 12.30pm. Family flowers only.

Birthday Notices

Fred Austin
Happy 85th Birthday
for December 2nd

Lots of love,
Mavis, Lorraine, Vernon, Steve & Janet. All your grandchildren, great grandchildren & family xxx

PENCOED RUGBY ROUND-UP

Gowerton just edge the under-16s

Megan Batacan evades a Caerphilly tackler. PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK

THIS close encounter between two of the leading sides at this age group within the Ospreys region did not disappoint, the match played at a high tempo, with good skills very apparent from both sides.

The old cliché of a game of two halves was certainly the case in this match, with Pencoed dominating the first half territorially and leading 5-13 at the break with tries from Jordan Bissett and skipper Tommy Reffell, Cameron Fyvie Davies having opened the Pencoed account with a penalty goal.

Pencoed increased their lead at the start of the second half with No 8 Tom Williams powering over on the blindside of a five metre scrummage and Pencoed looked comfortable at 5-18.

To their credit however the home side hit back immediately with a try, and then proceeded to play through their forwards, their driving play proving difficult to combat.

Two converted home tries brought the match scoreline to 19-21, Fyvie Davies having added a Pencoed penalty. Going into the final 15 minutes it was anyone's game, and with Pencoed defending deep in their own 22 along came the crucial moment, Pencoed picking up a yellow card for a technical offence and Gowerton seized the initiative metres from the Pencoed try line to drive over against the depleted Pencoed pack.

Pencoed tried desperately to save the game in the dying minutes, creating a couple of chances, but unfortunately it was not to be their day, with perhaps a little over eagerness denying them the winning score.

Gowerton, having come back from 5-18 down and later in the match 12-21 down, just about deserved this victory with a strong second half performance; however all is not lost for this talented Pencoed side who can still qualify for the latter stages of this competition.

On the evidence of this close contest between two quality sides there is every possibility they could meet again in the Ospreys Cup final!

ABOVE: Seren Hart bursts through while BELOW: Megan Whittaker crosses for a try.

JUNIOR PHOENIX GIRLS 29 CAERPHILLY JUNIOR GIRLS 25

Despite several late changes and the disruption of having to play three backs in their pack, junior Phoenix completed a season's double over Caerphilly.

The home side, looking to move the ball at every opportunity, ran in five tries through Seren Hart, Megan Whittaker, Kayleigh Powell, Jade Thomas and Megan Griffiths.

On Sunday junior Phoenix travel to Carmarthen to take on Carmarthen Quins, while senior Phoenix break for Ospreys regional trials. Senior Phoenix will then resume their National Premiership League programme with a home game against Gwernyfed on Sunday, December 6, 2.30pm kick off.

The Pencoed club are delighted with the selection of senior Phoenix player Mel Clay for the Welsh women's sevens squad which takes part in the Dubai sevens in December; Mel travels with the club's best wishes. **TR**

Player of the match Kayleigh Powell.

NEW FOOTBALL TEAM IN NORTH CORNELLY

North Cornelly under-11s in their new kit.

A NEW football team for under-11s has been started in North Cornelly.

Two local men, Mark Dewar and Lee Adams, are running the side, and Mark told The GEM: "I would like to thank Phil from Cornelly Hardware store for sponsoring the boys' new training and match day tops.

"We have also been helped by donations from the Olive Tree restaurant at Pyle Garden Centre, and Mike Poacher and sons in North Cornelly."

New players are always welcome. Contact Mark Dewar on 07929 969259.

Barry and District ladies skittle league results

LATEST results are:

First division: Cigar Ladies (A McCarthy 32) 311, Allsorts (S Holden 28) 265; Bakers Dozen (A Haines 32) 242, Coppers (J Hartnell 28) 227; Family and Friends (R Cummings, J Kirby 26) 234, SV Gals (V Pycroft 24) 190; Family Affair (Sue Evans, S Vincent 28) 236, Barry Stars (C Lambeth 28) 240; Pila Palas (S Potter 35) 318, Cawtaways (J Byrne 35) 318; Space Finders (K Harding, M Clark 32) 331, Colcot Ladies (M Snelling 31) 334; Red Admiral (J Jones 28) 252, Special Angels (L Brigham 31) 261.

Second division: Cad Con Fillies (A Harrhy 24) 224, Strikers (J Mills 21) 195; Breakaways (C Smith, L Smith 31) 297, Roller Coasters (S Spry 29) 269; Rhoose Starlights (N Pullin 27) 259, Witchill Widows (S Murray, D Fido 23) 220; Witchill Weebies (L Norris 33) 227, Divas (M Hellyar 28) 249; Castle Bandits (D Collard 34) 266, Vixen (K Thomas, M Marks 28) 260; Bobby's Girls (S Snelson 30) 262, Clickies (C Harvey 25) 230.

Third division: Etcetera (S Dyke, J Barton 28) 289, Rhoose Ravers (A Anthony 24) 242; Merry Makers (C Edwards 23) 213, Jolly Dollies (K Wright 23) 207; Friends and Neighbours (L Pugh, C White 26) 261, Airways Angels (L Davies 27) 257; Persuaders (C Organ 24) 227, Westenders (C Gee 22) 198; Dolly Mixtures (G Burdge 25) 193, Hill Billies (C Whyman 21) 197; Lil's Devils (P Weston 26) 238, Rugby Triers (J Belliner 25) 210; S V Ladies (K Lacay 33) 296, Witchill Wanderers (H Scott 32) 267.

Fourth division: Labells (R Day, N Cordy 34) 309, Odd Bods (S Ali 34) 259; Bozzy Birds (J Lader 26) 251, Twilights (S Ellis 27) 217; BFFs (J Harvey 27) 229, Off The Rails (G Griffiths 27) 221; Challengers (J Lander 25) 221, Railway Rogues (N Beatie 29) 236.

Fifth division: Aristocats (M Robson, P Dancy, M Rogers 26) 254, Barry Ravers (K Germon 25) 216; Guardian Angels (Sarah Aston 23) 223; Smurfs (J Romans 29) 135; Billy Bunter (E Abel, G Loveless 26) 223, Liberals (G Shier 24) 189; Socialites (P Starr 29) 218, Hell Raisers (L Waters 29) 180.

Porthcawl Bridge Club latest results

A heat of the UK simultaneous pairs for Children In Need was recently held in the club.

In this type of event, the same deals are played at all competing clubs (over 2000 pairs nationally for the Thursday heat alone). The event is then scored centrally, with the proceeds going to the national CIN campaign.

The winners within the club were Rob Charlesworth and Tony Haworth, who also finished ninth nationally. The club raised £200 for the very worthy cause.

Other recent club night results from the club are:

Saturday, November 8: First - Trish Saunders & Wendy Williams; Second - Colin & Hazel Heard. Monday, November 10: First - John Cobby & Betty Longley; Second - Trish Saunders & Pat Haworth. Thursday, November 13 (Children In Need pairs): First - Rob Charlesworth & Tony Haworth; Second - Gary Williams & Pat Haworth.

Saturday, November 15: First - Wendy Williams & Tony Haworth; Second - Dil & Marian Evans. Monday, November 17: First - Trish Saunders & Janet Richards; Second - Emer Disley & Pat Haworth. Thursday, November 20: First - Maurice & Margaret Harris; Second - Keith Davison & Tony Haworth.

The club meets three times a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, 7pm-10.15pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary Trish on 01656785794. **TH**

Sports under-15s taste bitter Pill of defeat

BRIDGEND Sports under-15s travelled to Newport to face a skilful Pill Harriers side who were difficult to compete with.

The Sports went into the game in good numbers with a squad of 21, but the hosts stamped their authority on the game straight from the first whistle and this set the tone for the match as a whole.

The first of Pill's five first half tries came just minutes in when one of their forwards made a forceful run to score to the left of the posts.

Soon after, long range tries became the order of the day for the Harriers as their outside centre showed good pace to score a converted try from inside his own half.

Then just seconds later, the confident outside centre scored his second try of the match straight from the restart to give the hosts an early 19 point lead.

However, the Sports' best moment of the match soon came as winger Ryan Morgan showed good awareness and finishing skills as he darted down the right hand side to make the score 19-5.

But any hopes of a Sports comeback were soon quashed as Pill's Number 12 eased through the Sports defence to score a converted try.

Then just before halftime Pill's outside centre completed his first half hat trick by scoring yet another long range try; the first half finished with the Sports trailing by 33 points to 5.

The second half once again saw the Sports struggling to create many opportunities so consequently the home side extended their lead by scoring three unanswered tries.

The Harriers backs were on top form and the Sports struggled to compete with their speed and skill which didn't help their cause. As an upshot of these further tries the scoreboard finished 50 points to 5 in favour of Pill.

Overall, the Sports can't be faulted for a lack of effort but unfortunately they just could not match the quality of Pill. **TP**

LLANTWIT MAJOR UNDER-12S TOO STRONG FOR BARRY

LAST Sunday Llantwit Major under-12s visited Barry Atoms and from the first whistle you could see that the Llantwit forwards were out to prove a point against a larger Barry pack.

At every breakdown the more mobile Llantwit pack provided their backs with plenty of opportunities to stretch the Barry team and from a scrum inside Barry's 22 the break through from a well worked move saw Jacob Hunt charge over for the first try.

For the remainder of the first half saw both teams missing opportunities to increase the scoreline and Llantwit defensive line showing no signs of buckling.

The second half saw a few changes to the team and it didn't take long for Llantwit to extend their lead with a line busting try by Jacob Pereira, created from a ruck close to Barry's posts.

Barry came back strong and after a good spell with the ball finally got their rewards, the try scored by their scrum half - this now made for an exciting second half.

As in the first half of the game both teams had equal possession but Barry seemed to be giving away more ball in turnovers.

It wasn't long before Llantwit capitalized on this. After a good Barry drive into our 22 the Llantwit forwards forced an error and the ball popped out to Kieran Daw who ran 80 metres to score under the posts.

From the restart Barry again came back and Llanwtit seemed to relax just enough for Barry to score an opportunistic try from a penalty tap pass in the far right corner.

This seemed to be the wake-up call Llantwit needed and from there onwards the forwards kept driving the Barry pack backwards and forced them into conceding errors, which created the next try.

From a scrum awarded to Llantwit, the set piece call was given and the ball flowed through the backs' hands, arriving at Kofi Jones, who sprinted through the defence untouched to score under the posts.

Barry kicked off to restart the game and again the ball was collected by the Llantwit forwards which saw the ball returned to Kofi Jones who kindly replied with a pitch length try again under the posts.

Llantwit were now on a roll and it wasn't long before the ball was returned to the backline. All the hard graft and determination the forwards and backs had shown meant they cut through Barry's defensive line and a deft little kick over the top by Kieran Daw was chased down and skillfully collected by Cole Saunders for him to score. This display was yet more evidence of how well the team is improving.

Final score Barry Atoms 10, Llantwit Major 40. Big thanks to all the parents for their support and encouragement this season.

Try scorers: Jacob Hunt, Jacob Pereira, Kieran Daw, Kofi Jones (2) and Cole Saunders. Conversions: Kofi Jones, Kieran Daw (4).

MD

Footballers celebrate their Welsh call-ups!

THREE members of the Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club under-14s team have been recently been celebrating with a call up to represent the regional Wales squad at the end of November.

Anais Trinci, Jasmine Rowley and Sian Rees have been selected from a pool of talented players within the south Wales area to represent the squad in friendly matches.

This is a great achievement for the players involved who have worked extremely hard from a young age, and further highlights the opportunities that exist within the female game currently.

All three players represent the club which has setups in both the Vale and Cardiff areas with 11 teams and over 150 female players ranging from the age of six to a full senior ladies.

Club chairman and founder, Luke Williams, commented: "This is a great achievement for the three players involved who we are proud to have as part of the club. All three players have been part of the club for some time and their potential was clear from an early age and it is fantastic to see their hard work is paying off. If they can keep it up they have the potential to go on and earn full Welsh caps in the years to come."

Although the club is relatively new, having launched in April 2012, it has quickly become the largest female setup in south Wales and Williams highlights the community engagement as a key reason for the club's success.

"The rapid growth of the club is all down to the amount of activities we provide for girls football within the community. We have helped develop school leagues at both primary and secondary age groups, coaching programmes for schools, regular festivals and tournaments which has raised the profile of the club significantly. In just over two years the club has more than doubled its membership and our focus is to now keep building from grassroots age groups."

New players of all abilities are always welcome at the club and anyone interested in trying girls football should email valegirlsfc@gmail.com or visit the club website: www.valegirlsfc@gmail.com.

LW

A well deserved win for Llantwit under-9s

SUNDAY saw Llantwit Major under-9s travel to Barry for an away game.

Another great turn out of players, 17 in total; they were Marcus Hanmer, Carwyn John, Rhys Hoggarth, Corey Cox, Lewys Ingram, Braydan Griffiths, Tom Jones, Luca Howles, James cavney, Thomas George, Kelyn Joseph, Flynn Barry, Thomas Lamerton, Owen Richards, Dafydd Morgan, Kian Barnett and Kristian Greedy.

With great numbers on both teams the coaches decided to play three 10 minute periods. The players for the first 10 minutes were Marcus, Carwyn, Rhys, Corey, Lewys, Braydan, Tom J, Luca, James and Thomas G.

The boys played some excellent rugby, they were great at defending and the boys were offloading the ball more and the tackling was fantastic - the score at the end of this 10 minutes was Llantwit 1 Barry 1; try scorer was Braydan.

The players for the next 10 minutes were Kelyn, Flynn, Thomas L, Owen, Dafydd, Kian, Kristian, Rhys, Marcus and Luca.

The boys played some great rugby and there were some outstanding tackling and some great tries scored. The boys played very well in this 10 minutes taking the score to Llantwit 3, Barry 4; try scorers were Flynn, Kristian and Thomas L.

The last 10 minutes the boys were mixed so all boys got more game time. The boys played some excellent rugby in this 10 minutes - the tackling was fantastic and the boys made some great decisions when offloading the ball, and they were great in defence too.

The game saw Llantwit take the lead with tries scored by Lewys and Braydan with two; the score at the end of this 10 minutes was Llantwit 3 Barry 1 and the overall score for the matches was Llantwit Major 7, Barry 6.

A well deserved win for Llantwit as all players played outstandingly and this showed in the result - well done to all players keep it up. Men of the matches were Kelyn and Kian.

MG

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!
Email us your sports reports and news - *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Mixed fortnight for Sully bowlers

SULLY Bowls team have played two Club Championship matches over the last two Saturdays.

They travelled to Newport on November 15 hoping to gain the double over their opponents having beaten them by a single shot at home, and then entertained Ogwr at Sully Stadium again hoping to complete the double.

Firstly, Newport who are very difficult to beat on their own carpet as Sully have learnt in past seasons, but the Sully players are now playing with more belief this season and were confident of giving Newport a hard game.

The game began with Newport taking the early initiative and led after the first couple of ends but Sully who began well fought back and by the fifth end had levelled the game at 27-27. The game remained close with Sully behind at the end of the 10th by just two shots, mainly due to the rinks skipped by McLeod and Foscolo who were winning by 10 and six shots respectively.

As the game continued only the Sully rinks of McLeod and Foscolo rinks remained in front while the other four rinks, although behind, were fighting hard to stay in touch with their opposition but by the 15th end Sully were behind 75-84 and were looking to recover this deficit over the final six ends.

The fight back began with the rinks skipped by Martin Clarke and Matthew Woodcock clawing back their shot deficits; unfortunately these efforts were nullified by McLeod's rink who began to leak shots.

Fortunately Foscolo's rink of Graham Cogbill, Gary Eastment and Mike Doyle continued to play well and extended their lead to 18 shots by the 20th end allowing Sully to stay in touch.

Matthew Woodcock's rink of Steve McKernan, John Jones and Steve Close outplayed their opponents over the last six ends scoring 11 shots to 3 to force an excellent draw, while Foscolo's rink picked up three more shots on the final end to win convincingly by 21 shots, which left Sully still with a chance of obtaining a result being just four behind with Fred Phillips' rink still on the green, playing the last end.

In fact Phillips had an opportunity with his last bowl to remove a Newport wood to make a five, just two metres from the head; it looked as if the bowl was on line but it missed its target by a whisker, leaving Newport winners by four shots, 110-114, Newport 17 points Sully five points.

Sully welcomed Ogwr to Sully on Saurday, November 22, expecting a win against a side struggling at the foot of the table.

Sully made a number of changes for this game enabling the use of their full squad and the players who came in to the side proved themselves very capable which will make the selection for the next game interesting.

The game began with Sully taking the early advantage and were 23 shots ahead by the fifth end with four rinks up and two down.

As the game progressed Sully were beginning to extend their lead and five of the six rinks were ahead with only Martin Clarke's rink surprisingly behind but by the end of the 10th Sully were well ahead by 44 shots, 86-42.

Sully although expecting to win wanted to gain full points and all rinks except Clarke's were now well ahead and the focus was on Clarke to rally his rink to gain those vital points but as the game went to the final ends the rinks of Doyle, Woodcock, Foscolo, McLeod and Griffiths were winning easily and Clarke's rink had recovered their deficit to go ahead on the penultimate end 18-17.

The last end saw Clarke's rink two down and in danger of losing and he had one wood left to draw shot for the win; unfortunately on this occasion he could only draw second shot to square his game taking one point, giving Sully 21 points to Ogwr's one, leaving the score 180-83 in favour of Sully.

The next game is on Saturday, December 6 against Blaenau Gwent away, and there are two starting times - 10am and 2pm - so please ensure names are down for selection.

FP

Presentation night for the ladies at Brynhill

PRESENTATION night for the Brynhill Ladies took place on Saturday, November 8, and was well attended by the lady golfers.

Also present was the Ppresident Peter Hayman who always supports the section. Amongst the many cups presented were: Club Championship - Shirley Lewis, Diak Championship - Helena Coombes, Crystal Cup - Barbara Watkins, Parkstone Cup - Liz Brown, Superbowl - Helene Cook and golfer of the year - Linda Hewlett.

The presentations were made very efficiently which, after the mens section was completed, left the rest of the evening for the ladies to celebrate! CH

Pupils' success in cross-country event

ON Saturday, November 15, Llantwit Major School's under-15 girls' cross-country squad took the team silver medal in the 38th Welsh inter-schools cross-country championships held in Brecon.

The team were Alisha Hayes, Hannah Jones, Bryony Parkinson and Lauren McLoughlin (pictured above).

Other girls who competed for Llantwit Major Comprehensive during the day, were Erin McLoughlin (year-7), Ellie Atkinson (year-13), and Erin Hayes (year-13).

All the girls ran excellent races, with Ellie taking the silver medal in the senior girls' race. **SB**

Delme's book is 'frank and honest'

WELSH rugby enthusiasts will want to avail themselves of *Delme The Autobiography* (published by yLolfa at £9.95).

This is a frank and honest autobiography of one of the heroes of Llanelli, Wales and Lions rugby, Delme Thomas. Delme reached the pinnacle with his club, country and internationally, over a 15-year playing career.

He was chosen to be part of the Lions tour in 1966, despite not yet being capped by Wales. He was also captain of Llanelli, and led them to a legendary victory aginst the All Blacks at Stradey Park in 1972.

He became well known in the rugby world, gaining everyone's respect on the field – and that respect continues to this day.

Giving up his playing career was not an easy decision, and he suffered from depression for a period afterwards.

Only now, in this fascinating memoir, is he able to remind us of his glorious career and his thoughts on Carwyn James, Clive Rowlands and other rugby greats.

The beauty about this book is that you don't really have to be a rugby fan to enjoy it! **BRIAN LEE**

Bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 18 (the results shown are the culmination of a two week team competition):

1st Joan Jenkins (Mark Roderick), Peter Millar, Mick Green and Noelle Bond; 2nd Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Close and Tim Barsby; 3rd Dave Thomas, Tom Kendrick, Ann and Sean Macdougall; 4th Alan Jones, Lyn Matthews, Helen Jordan and Judith Owen.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, and a partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. **DR**

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

The year 9 and 10 Urrd netball squads.

The Urrd senior squad.

Welsh first place year 9 and 10 girls.

Welsh third place year 7 and 8 girls.

THE Cowbridge senior netball team made up of three Year 11 players, Olivia Jones, Beth Swallow and Ffion Vickers, five Year 12 players, Kim Jerwood, Meg MacNamee, Laura Young, Beth Richard, Hannah Lister Sims and one Year 13, Lydia Hitchings, played in the national Urdd netball competition.

Cowbridge played Neath Port Talbot in their first match. They lost 12-8, however there was an excellent performance by the defence. Next up was Strade; unfortunately another loss, 9-7 but it was a close game with Strade pulling away right at the end to win by two goals.

The next game was against Llangynwyd; Cowbridge had an easy win, 23-2. In the last game against Gwyr, Cowbridge were beaten 19-8.

Although the girls lost three of their matches, these results do not reflect the Cowbridge girls' skill and determination throughout the tournament. Well done girls.

The Year 9 and 10 netball team's first game in the Urdd netball tournament was against Queen Elizabeth High School Carmarthen.

It took us a while to settle into the game but in the end we won 5-1. There was great shooting from Annabel Hergarty and good interceptions from Hannah Sloan, Sophie Oddy and Elin Swallow proved vital for this win.

In the second game Cowbridge played Cwrt Sart; the girls played with a very strong defence from Elin Swallow and Hannah Sloan and an affective attack play from Sophie Oddy and Annabel Hegarty.

There were great passes from Meriel Clode around the circle and excellent play from Selina Radcliffe and Jordan Meek. The girls won 7-1.

Our third game was against John the Baptist. Hannah Sloan and Selina Radcliffe worked very well in defence together which secured the attacking side including Jordan Meek and Nia Davies, who then passed to Annabel Hegarty and Emily Forest who did a great job of shooting - we drew the game 4-4.

The fourth game against Gwyr proved more of a test and Gwyr got off to a flying start scoring three goals in the first few minutes.

However Cowbridge then scored an excellent goal by Annabel. Great defence from Hannah, Selina and Elin saw fewer goals come from the opposing team whilst Sophie Rees scored another goal. Cowbridge lost 12-2. Unfortunately we didn't go through in our pool but well done girls for really teamwork shown during the day.

HOCKEY

The under-18 girls played at home to Bro Morgannwg in the first round of the Cardiff & Vale Hockey tournament on Monday, November 10.

What an exciting match lasting over an hour going into extra time. We got off to a great start dominating the first 10 minutes with Evie Williams scoring a great goal from the GK rebound from a save.

We then let our guard down and they came back at us and evened the score 1-1. Just before halftime Evie scored again making the score 2-1.

In the second half we relaxed a little and Bro Morgannwg took their opportunity and scored, evening the score to 2-2.

The last 10 minutes were tense with each team trying to score the winning goal knowing the match would have to go to extra time and penalties, and the full time score was 2-2.

We played an extra 10 minutes, or first goal to score wins. Finally in the last minute of extra time Ellie Eddy-Williams scored to make it 3-2.

We play Radyr in the next round. Well done to all the girls who played their hearts out for the whole match. Player of the match was Ellie Eddy-Williams.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-country runners from Cowbridge competed in the Welsh Inter Schools National Championships in Brecon.

In the Year 7 and 8 girl's race, Year 8 pupil Sophie Hawkins was first home for Cowbridge in 27th place followed by Charlotte Tudor in 29th.

Year 7 pupil Isobel Annetts was third in for Cowbridge in 44th place followed by Year 8 Alice Coe in 47th. Sophie, Charlotte, Isobel and Alice made up the team and came third, a great result for the girls.

In the Year 7 & 8 boys race Luke Gregory had a great run to come 19th, followed by Will O'Connor in 35th, Ben Batton 39th and James Davies in 41st. These four boys came in fourth place as a team. Tom O'Connor also ran and came 62nd.

In the Year 9 and 10 races Jess Wadey had a good run with the leaders throughout the race. Towards the end the first four girls pulled away and Jess finished a credible seventh place.

Next home for Cowbridge was Selina Radcliffe in 41st place, Georgia Armitage in 48th and Meriel Clode in 50th. These four made up the winning 'A' team. Well done girls.

Aimee Jones also ran, coming 56th - a great performance by the Cowbridge athletes.

Llantwit Major under-7s in 60-plus try fest!

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-7s made the short journey to local rivals Barry on Sunday for what turned out to be an entertaining and skillful derby encounter.

Having received some stern words from their coaches last week about their missed tagging, the team worked hard during their pre-match training in a bid to put this right.

The squad took this on board and even though there were over 60 tries scored in four matches, the tagging was great from both sides.

The pitches where the teams played had a huge slope which would normally result in one way traffic for the team playing downhill; however many tries were scored against the slope which was excellent to see.

Both teams were closely matched with the first set of games ending in Barry's favour, 9-6 and 9-8. Having praised their teams efforts in the interval, coaches Andrew Mitchem and Andrew Bourner were concerned that the teams would flag in the second set of games but they once again put in a massive effort with the games ending 12-11 for Barry and 5-6 to Llantwit (35-31 overall to Barry).

Top try scorer on the day was the birthday boy Jos Bourner with six tries, with help from Kyle Pagano (4), Bleddyn Mitchem (2), Oliver Ingram (2), Bleddyn Daw (3), Joel Harris (5), Dylan Godsell (2), Thomas Collins (4), Maverick Jennings (1) and Lloyd Morgan (2).

The coaches awarded two players of the match for each team on the day, with the certificates going to Kyle Pagano and Ifan Lovejoy - well done!!

Team - Ifan Lovejoy, Kyle Pagano, Jos Bourner, Bleddyn Mitchem, Oliver Ingram, Bleddyn Daw, Joel Harris, Dylan Godsell, Thomas Collins, Maverick Jennings, Lloyd Morgan, Evan Boult, Norah Griffiths, Theo Elsenburg, Tomos Davies and Aaron Moce.

IG

Cowbridge under-9s face off against Penarth

DESPITE all the wet weather this week, Cowbridge under-9s were on the road visiting Penarth.

Team 1 were caught napping at the start, missing a few tackles and soon found themselves 1-0 down. George Tuckley brought us level with a powerful run directly from the restart, before James Lord bounced off numerous tacklers to take us into the lead. Penarth did not give up and despite a determined Cowbridge defence, brought the score level.

Not wanting to be outdone, in the final play of the game, Sam Sheppard jinked over the line past the Penarth defence to make it 3-2 to Cowbridge.

Team 2 started strongly and didn't look back. In what was probably the move of the day, James Collingridge started the play, passing to Harry New, who sprinted almost the length of the pitch before being tackled. He cleverly offloaded back to James C, who had shadowed Harry the whole way, crossing for a spectacular try.

Harry then scored a try of his own, sidestepping from five yards, before Henry Whitehouse broke a few tackles scoring into the corner. Final score 3-0.

The coaches then decided to mix the teams up and Team 3 ran out winners again for Cowbridge.

Firstly Ioan Phillips burst through the Penarth defensive line and passed to Henry W, who finished in style. Sam S then offloaded to Henry, who passed to James L, who broke a couple of tackles to score under the posts.

Penarth never gave up and responded with a try of their own; however Cowbridge were on a roll.

A fantastic try involving most of the team was finished off by James C, and then Harry skipped past the bemused Penarth defence before Tom Doble finished in the corner, breaking the final tackle. Final score 5-1.

Team 4 ran onto the pitch with great confidence, which wasn't misplaced despite a fantastic effort from Penarth.

L Thomas burst through from the kick off, before Penarth responded with a try of their own. Henry Pugh finished off a try, again involving most of the team, before Penarth scored again after a prolonged period of tremendous defence by Cowbridge.

George Edgell then scored in the corner after a great run and offload by Wil Martin. The last few minutes of the game were frenetic with Penarth firstly scoring to make it three tries each, before Paddy Whitestone's determined run, breaking through countless tackles, won it for Cowbridge 4-3 in the final play of the game.

PS

Cottrell Park celebrates a good year of golf!

CLUB secretary Jenny McGlyne welcomed the guests to the presentation evening at Cottrell Park Golf and Country Club.

The trophies were presented by the captain Edward Yhap and ladies' captain Jan Cosby.

The winners were: Mens' Club champion - Simon Hawkins, runner up Bill Bryce; Mens Plate - Adrian Harding, runner up Chris Burnell; Rabbits trophy - Chris Little, runner up Graham Hill; golfer of the year - Simon Hawkins; Scratch Cup - Steve Downes.

Ladies' Club Champion - Eleanor Lewis, runner up Vicki Long; Nett Champion - Vicki Long, runner up Eleanor Lewis; Bronze Trophy - Jan Cosby, runner up Jen Thomas; Rabbits Trophy - Lowri Roberts, runner up Lorraine Pointon-Bell; ladies golfer of the Year - Helen Evans; Scratch Cup - Helen Poole.

During the evening the captains gave reports on the performances of their respective sections over the last year, including how the teams had performed.

The Cottrell Cup, won by Graham Clark, and Tyler Trophy, won by Celine Chew, are played for each year to celebrate the opening of Cottrell Park Golf Club. Further trophies included the Llancarfan trophy - Chris Burnett; Centenary Shield - Steve Kelly; Trehill Trophy - Les Fair; Harvey Cup - Helen Poole; Hale Trophy - Geraldine Twamley.

Mens knock out competitions: Button course, singles - Scott Nicholas; Fourball - Rob Good and John Williams. Mackintosh course, singles - Justyn Withey, Foursomes; - Ian Cunningham and Chris Stanlake.

Ladies knockout competitions: Button course, singles - Kathy Northam; Greensomes - Sandra Collin and Vicki Long. Mackintosh course, singles - Eleanor Lewis; Foursomes; Helen Little and Helen Poole.

Mixed knock outs: Button course, Greensomes - Jo Pateman and Bill Bryce, Mackintosh course, Foursomes - Jo Pateman and Bill Bryce.

Jenny McGlyne described the Welsh Ping competition; there was an entry of mixed pairs from 64 clubs in Wales, the Cottrell Park team played very well, winning through many rounds to finals day, where they were defeated by Carmarthen who went on to win the competition

The ladies' club champion, 14-year-old Eleanor Lewis, gave a very eloquent speech, thanking the club, the professional and her family for all the support she had been given since joining Cottrell Park at six years old.

Eleanor Lewis, the ladies' club champion.

The captain's charity for the year is Hafal. A cheque for £4,580 was presented to Jamaid Iqbal, area manager for Hafal; a further amount will be added later following a raffle for a handmade quilt by the ladies section.

Gareth Bennett, professional golfer at Cottrell Park, was thanked for his sterling effort following a sponsored golf day, completing 108 holes walking approx 35 miles and raising £637.50 for Hafall; Barclays bank also made a £1,000 contribution.

The club secretary thanked the competition secretaries for their work throughout the year and Meirion Chesney for managing the trophies so efficiently.

Two other trophies completed the evening. Player of the year, for contribution to the juniors and the team, went to Eleanor Lewis, and the Bill Bryce Trophy, for commitment, support and leadership over the year, was awarded to Erin Allison.

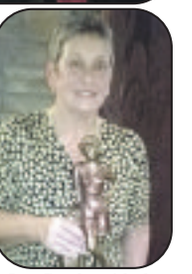
The evening concluded with congratulations to all the winners, followed by refreshments.

CB

The cheque presentation to Hafal.

Sandra Collin and Vicki Long.

Helen Evans, lady golfer of the year.



Jan Crosby with the Bronze trophy.

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday November 18, there was a full programme of league matches.

There was no stopping Llanharry who defeated the Edmondes A 7-2. Their is still no separating the Edmondes B and the Highwayman Inn in second place, both winning 8-1, defeating the Edmondes C and the Hare and Hounds respectively.

In the other match the Old Post Ladies lost 3-6 to the Farmer's Arms. It was an evening of high scoring darts with John Davies (Edmondes C), Martin Thomas (Edmondes B), Steve Huish (Edmondes C) and Mike Newth (Llanharry) all hitting a 180.

Present league standings after eight matches, are: Llanharry (57 points), Highwayman Inn and Edmondes B (45), Edmondes A (36), Hare and Hounds (31), Farmer's Arms (28), Edmondes C (26) and Old Post Ladies (18).

Next week, Tuesday December 2, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes A hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Old Post Ladies hosts Llanharry, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Edmondes B and the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes C.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. Note all teams can register new players until the New Year so if you wish to play darts this season get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

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Tournament action for Barry chess team

THIS week saw round one of the new East Glamorgan Chess Association knock out tournament.

Barry had two entrants but unfortunately when the draw was independently made our teams were drawn to play one another. The eight players in total were selected to ensure a close match as on each board the players were as evenly matched as we could manage. The games ended 2-2 with the result being decided on Bottom Board Elimination.

With wins in particular for Dave Mahoney and Steve Bonutto it is likely that when the ratings are updated that they will move above their respective opponents, John Stephenson and Windsor Lewis.

In the next round we have a tough match away to North Cardiff. In our half of the draw the winner of this match should be strong enough to reach the final in May. The best performance of the round came from Penarth, who, although eventually losing by 2.5 to 1.5, saw Mike Servini draw on board one and Sam Warburton claiming the point on board two. In both cases their opponents were rated at 1950.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards, whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Evan lands an across the card double!

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had plenty to smile about last Saturday.

His six-year-old Dark Spirit ran out an easy winner of the Trisoft Mare's Handicap Hurdle at Ascot and his six-year-old On Tour landed the Better Odds With Betfair Price Rush Handicap Hurdle at Haydock.

Dark Spirit, partnered by Adam Wedge, won by 11 lengths from Cove and On Tour, who was winning for the third time on the bounce, scored by two and a half lengths from Run Ructions Run under stable jockey Paul Moloney.

Dark Spirit went off the 2-1 favourite and On Tour was returned at odds of 7-1.

LEWIS SCORES FOR EVAN

Congratulations go to Llancarfan's Evan Williams' new conditional jockey Lewis Gordon on chalking up his first winner under rules when landing the handicap chase at Chepstow Racecourse last Thursday on IslandMagee.

Lewis, whose only other win had been when riding Gypsy Mark to success in a point-to-point race, said: "I couldn't believe how far clear I was. I was planning to drop him in, but he was too well and free and he pulled my arms out."

IslandMagee, which went off the 6-4 favourite, came home 14 lengths ahead of Jackies Solitaire. Twenty-four hours later at rainsoaked Ffos Las, Evan saddled his seven-year-old bay gelding Firebird Flyer to win the handicap hurdle race.

Ridden by Connor Ring, Firebird Flyer scored by one-and-three quarter lengths from Rendl Beach, which is trained by Chepstow's Robert Stephens.

BRIAN LEE

Team on look-out for players

CADOXTON Barry Football Club are looking for more players from the Vale.

The under-10 team are looking for girls and boys in school year 5 to play organised and structured football on a Saturday morning.

The club has two teams at this level - the blues and the greens - and have several girls, but would like to encourage more girls of this age to play football.

The teams this year have been helped with the running costs by Craig and Jordan of the TFL Plan Centre on Cardiff Road, Barry, who sponsored the team's kit.

Thanks also go to Jamie at Macron Cardiff, for doing the printing for the club.

The teams play on a Saturday morning from 10am and train in the Barn Hall at Romilly School on a Wednesday evening from 5pm-6pm.

Any parents of girls and boys of this age group please contact Matthew on 07908095669 for more information. **TP**

Barry men's skittle league

DIVISION 1:

Barry Park 'B' (N.Bowen 30) 270, Park Rangers (S.Dite 29) 254; Cavaliers (R.Thomas 35) 265, Ex-Servicemen (T.Carcia 31) 280; Geest (J.Williams 29) 270, Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes, C.Cureton 29) 268; Mighty Dockers (P.Burroughes 31) 256, Blue Monkey (N.McCarthy 27) 253; Park Lads (J.Brookman 30) 265, Mighty Dockers (J.Conway 30) 266; Park Rangers (S.Dite 28) 276, Park Lads (G.Jones 28) 271; The Hairy Lemons (K.Silvey 27) 272, The Merrymen (S.Barnsley 30) 293; The Merrymen (S.Jones 31) 328, Geest (S.Phillips, O.Ashill, S.Galsworthy 31) 327; West End Stars (S.Davies, P.Baker 22) 233, 49'ers (M.Gould 28) 256.

Division 2: BP Breakaways (A.Rees 28) 275, Tynewydd Lads (D.Sluman, S.Sulman 27) 254; Buffs Exiles (T.Griffiths 32) 260, Witchill Wizards (C.Tipton 32) 261; Exiles (J.Miles 29) 280, Posties (M.Churchill 28) 263; Road Runners (J.Norris 27) 248, Abercrete (R.Mears 26) 241; The Royalists (D.Wright, G.Evans 29) 306, Tynny Fliers (D.Everett31) 311; Willie Wombles (J.Parsons, E.Draisey 29) 283, Barry Social (B.Allen 30) 275; Witchill Poachers (R.Power 34) 348, Sea View (D.Bannister 35) 333.

Division 3: Billy Whizz (M.Cutterjar 30) 270, C.U.D.(G.Jenkins 31) 271; Cannon Balls (T.Price 29) 297, British Rail (R Wheeler 31) 302; 'H'Hells (B.Webb 27) 269, Commanchies'2'(A.Germon 30) 283; K.P. Monkeynuts (K.Payne 33) 293, Castle Boys (S.Brooks, K.Eveleigh 27) 272; The Rejects (R.Hembury 35) 314, Billy Bluebirds (G.Norris 34) 307. **HR**

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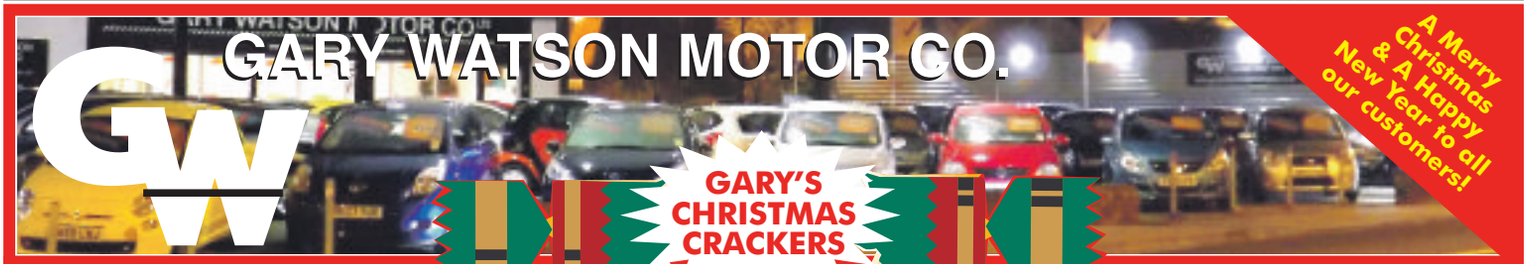

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56 **SUBARU TriBeca B9 Automatic 3.0 Litre 7-Seater 4x4** In met grey with grey leather 58,000 miles **£7,495**
60 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr** In silver, 36,000 miles, a/c, alloys, c/d **£6,995**
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59 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In silver, 36,000 miles **£6,495**
61 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-Dr** In black, 35,000 miles, alloys etc **£5,995**
10 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 TDi Diesel 'S'.** In red, 64,000 miles, £30 road tax **£5,995**
10 **PEUGEOT 308 'S' 1.6 Auto 5-Dr** In silver 31,000, miles, a/c, c/d etc **£5,995**
59 **SKODA Octavia 1.9 Diesel SE Estate.** In silver, 75,000 miles, nice example **£5,995**
09 **MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 3-Dr.** In black, 46,000 miles, c/d, a/c, alloys, 1 owner **£5,995**
58 **CITROEN C5 2.0 VTR+ Auto.** In met blue, 39,000 miles, fantastic value at **£5,995**
57 **MERCEDES C180K Coupe 'Sport Edition' Auto** In blue-black metallic, 80,000 miles **£5,995**
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59 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 3-Dr** In black, 36,000 miles, low insurance **£5,695**
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58 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr.** In black, 64,000 miles with parking sensor **£5,495**
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58 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.2 Estate** In silver, 60,000 miles with a/c, alloys **£4,995**
58 **RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Dynamique 5-Dr** In black, 71,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax **£4,995**
08 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 5-Dr (100)** In black, 50,000 miles, 2 owners **£4,995**
08 **KIA Ceed 1.6 LS 5-Dr** In met blue, 47,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc **£4,995**
57 **SEAT Altea 1.9 Diesel Reference** In met ruby red, 72,000 miles, 2 owners **£4,995**
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POSY'S RIDING SUCCESS!

MRS G R Posy Lewis, of Upper Porthkerry in the Vale, made turf history in 1966 when she became the first female to be awarded a trainer's licence to train under National Hunt rules.

Posy, who died in 1990, saddled around 200 winners but the form books will tell you that they were trained by either her head lead Cyril Carpenter, her brother Clem or her son Ifor. Posy was dubbed 'The Suffragette of Horse Racing' after breaking in the all-male Anglo American Sporting Club to see one of her stable lads box on a young jockeys' bill in the 1960s.

I recall the time she told me how she caused something of a sensation when as a 13-year-old Miss Posy Morel she won a race for ponies on her Ocean Wave at the Ystrad & Pentyrch Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases in 1921: "I was very naive and quite unimpressed by all the fuss, and the male crowd, mostly miners, picking up horse, saddle and me on top, to carry us into the weighing room."

Posy trained Limonali to win two Chepstow Welsh Grand Nationals and this week we take a look at the first of those wins with an excerpt from my book The Welsh Grand National - From Deerstaker To Supreme Glory (Published by The History Press at £12.99).

For Mrs G.R. Posy Lewis, a director of Chepstow Racecourse, it was a case of third time lucky when she saw her eight-year-old Limonali run out an easy winner of the 1959 race, for in the past her Billy Budd and Waving Star had been narrowly beaten in the race she wanted so much to win.

An 100/8 outsider, Limonali finished strongly to beat the previous year's winner Oscar Wilde by two lengths. Arthur Freeman on Mac Joy finished third and Prune was fourth. In fifth place came Master Copper, ridden by his own trainer Colin Davies, who had won the classic Lady Dudley Cup point-to-point race on him in 1958. The only horse to fall was favourite, The Bell.

Ridden by David Nicholson, who was putting up 2lb overweight, Limonali, who was always prominent throughout, took up the running after the 17th fence to score a popular victory.

Described by David Nicholson as a rough coated little rabbit, Limonali had been bought by Mrs Lewis 18 months earlier from his Irish breeder Dr Stokes: "He was not too good in himself so I gave him the old Irish treatment of turning him out in the paddock, letting him roll in the mud and it did the trick," recalled Mrs Lewis.

At six feet one inch, there weren't many taller National Hunt jockeys than David Nicholson. He had ridden his first winner at Chepstow four years earlier when just 16 and his win in the Welsh Grand National was his biggest at the time.

The son of the famed 'Frenchie' Nicholson, David was known as 'The Duke' because of his handsome looks and smart appearance.

Taffy Jenkins from Maesteg, who rode the runner-up, partnered more than 100 winners between 1951 and 1962, but unfortunately he had as many falls as he had winners and his riding career came to an end after a crashing fall at Sandown Park in 1963 which left him in a very bad way.

He started training sometime afterwards and it was something of a coincidence that the track which ended his riding career got him off to start as a trainer when Voleur won there in 1966.

You can e-mail your news or views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Llantwit Major & District dart league tables

'A' League table:

Rugby Club 'A2' 77, Golden Cups 70, Wenvoe Arms 70, Kings Head 'A1' 68, Shoes Peterston 63, Fox & Hounds 56, Rugby Club 'A1' 54, Blacksmith Arms 52, Kings Head 'A2' 47, Lamb & Flag 45, Four Bells 44, Tudor Tavern 44, Golf Club 'A1' 34.

'C' League table:

Lamb & Flag 'C1' 86, Lamb & Flag 'C2' 75, Shoes St Athan 62, Kings Head 'C1' 59, Golf Club 'C1' 60, Golf Club 'C2' 58, Kings Head 'C2' 51, Rugby Club 22.

DMC

Sully bridge club results

MONDAY, November 17, North/South:

1st Gareth Stone/Brian Gardner 61.16, 2nd Joy Secular/Joan Andrews 57.44, 3rd Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 54.75. East/West: 1st Helen Jordan/Marjorie Morgan 62.16, 2nd Anne MacDougall/Hope Hall 61.26, 3rd Sean MacDougall/Una Gavin 60.14.

Wednesday, November 19, North/South: 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 68.14, 2nd = Anne Johns/John Pikoulis 61.14, 3rd = Ev Kerslake/Roger Cradick 61.14. East/West: 1st Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 63.41, 2nd Judith Owen/Helen Jordan 59.09, 3rd Pam Sherman/June Reeve 58.41.

Saturday, November 22, North/South: 1st Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 66.67, 2nd Kay Dyer/Reg Dyer 53.33, 3rd Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 52.78. East/West: 1st Una Gavin/Pam Sherman 56.67, 2nd Mary Blackwell/Peter Blackwell 54.76, 3rd Norman Ryley/Sam Fellows 52.38.

EK

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Cowbridge under-11s impress Mike!

Cowbridge under-11s are pictured with Wales scrum half Mike Phillips.

COWBRIDGE under-11s got back to winning ways with an impressive display at the seaside as Penarth were beaten by 21-14 in a game watched by Wales scrum half Mike Phillips.

The coaches, who have bemoaned slow starts by their charges, had no complaints as Cowbridge were quick off the blocks and showed real determination in both defence and attack.

Cowbridge opened the scoring as winger Finlay Brace was put into space and applied the afterburners to sprint down the left hand side touchline to score in the corner. The try was converted by outside half Harry Treharne.

Cowbridge competed well for possession, none more than Ifor Rees. New recruit Will Evans and, as usual, Robbie Brown and Akka Guwy put themselves about, making some big tackles. However, before the end of the first session Penarth got a converted try of their own to level the scores at 7-7.

Despite the muddy conditions there was some lovely handling and a great off load from Akka Guwy put Iolo Davies over for Cowbridge's second try which was converted by full back Will Harris.

This was followed by another good team try as the ball was taken from one side of the field and then back through the backline for centre Will Evans to touchdown. Will Harris again converted, with the second session ending 21-7 to Cowbridge.

However, any thoughts that Cowbridge would pull away were soon dispelled as the visitors came under pressure in the final period.

Despite a fine defensive effort the home side scored a converted try to ensure an exciting finish was in store. The home side threw everything at Cowbridge but the visitors' try line stayed intact due to a real team effort and all 17 players on duty can take credit for ensuring the win was achieved.

The coaches were delighted not just with the win but the application and determination shown by the boys as a team and by the quality of the rugby played in difficult conditions.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Oliver Jones, Archie Lloyd, Finlay Brace, Ifor Rees, Robbie Brown, Lewys Robins, Akka Guwy, Rhys Pritchard, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Will Evans, Harry Treharne and Rhys Ford. **MF**

Barry West End holds presentation evening

BWECC held their annual social, awards presentation on the night of Friday, November 21 at Streets Brasserie.

This year marked a special celebration as the club realised its 30th year in existence. Some founding members were in attendance as usual including Glan Williams and Rhys Thomas.

Rhys Howell is the side's vintage opening batsman who never gives his wicket away. Renowned for his morbid fear of fielding, and for playing 'the long game' he won the season's batting award, presented for achieving the highest average runs scored.

Feared by opponents and teammates alike, when his limp becomes more noticeable, it usually means he is set to go on and make a good score.

Recipient of the batting award for the second year in succession, Rhys took away this trophy to add to his growing collection and further weigh down his cabinet.

Aneurin Lane has been ever-present from almost the start of the club. With his proven ability to turn the ball and with his dangerous variations he is the club's leading wicket taker of all time.

Being more often used to clean up the tail, he also returned this season's best bowling with 6-28 on tour.

This year's captain's award naturally went to Glan Williams, while the player's player vote and trophy was probably more surprisingly won by Henry Dawson!

Veteran bowler Tommy Miller usually drops as many as he catches, but surpassed a career milestone with over 150 victims. Young buck Henry Dawson, one of the more recent recruits to the side, and club captain for the past two seasons, also collected a trophy for exceeding 100 catches and stumpings this season.

We were fed and entertained throughout the season by our hosts Debbie and Steve Dite.

Normal service will resume next season, with nets being held early next year, but in the meantime merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Westies!

ACM

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DRAGON CAN STILL MAKE IT TWO OUT OF FOUR AND END THE AUTUMN TESTS ON A HIGH, BUT...

CAN WALES FINALLY BEAT 10-MINUTE HOODOO AS THE CLOCK WINDS DOWN?

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WHEN the Wales team ran out on to the new hi-tech pitch at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Saturday evening – to the usual wall of sound from a fervent capacity crowd – hopefully, none of them had checked the record books beforehand to measure the true scale of the task facing them against formidable New Zealand.

For the bleak statistics stretching back 109 years since the world's two most passionate rugby nations first clashed at the old Cardiff Arms Park on December 16, 1905, would have daunted even the most stout-hearted.

Matches played 29 - New Zealand 26, Wales 3.
Total points - New Zealand 882, Wales 291.

It represented an unbroken run of 25 victories for the men in black with a silver fern on their chest since 1963. In fact, amazingly one has to go back even further - to the year the 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne in 1953 – for the third, and last, narrow home win (13-8) under that peerless prince of Welsh centres, Bleddyn Williams (who had also skippered Cardiff RFC to an 8-3 victory over the tourists a few weeks earlier).

Before that, it was 13-12 to Wales in 1935, and even the first 'Golden Age' team could only scrape a 3-0 win in the controversial opening fixture in 1905.

Even to this day, it is bemoaned in the land of the long white cloud for a 'try that never was', as evidenced by remarks made by current Kiwi coach Steve Hansen in midweek.

Throughout the long decades it has been generally one-way traffic, with the gap between the two ever widening and Wales regularly on the receiving end of humiliating half century scorelines, when Golden Ages eventually gave way to Dark Ages in Welsh rugby.

Ironically, it has taken a Kiwi (*and there are two more in Ireland and Scotland!*) to begin to close the still yawning gap between the two hemispheres, though Wales head coach Warren Gatland has yet to see this reflected in the only place where it matters – on the final scoreboard against the SH Big Three (with only one win in 27 attempts).

In a sense, then, Saturday's 16-34 loss to the world champions might seem merely the latest depressingly-predictable result in a long-running saga of one-sided encounters.

This, though hardly does justice to the truly heroic efforts of a Welsh team that put behind them the dismal performance against Fiji the week before and instead, reprised their resolute display against Australia in the opening autumn test.

In fact, for all but the last 10 minutes of a nail-biting encounter, the ecstatic 74,500 crowd scented a shock upset in the air, as once again unfancied Wales fronted up to vaunted opponents from the start; and there was the unaccustomed sight of visibly-rattled All Blacks forced to take desperate measures in defence – within minutes conceding a penalty directly in front of their posts, which full back Leigh Halfpenny slotted over with aplomb.

Young Kiwi outside half, Beauden Barrett, who had earlier missed with one kickable attempt, made amends with a huge penalty from halfway; but when battle was rejoined, the home team were soon back on the attack, skipper Sam Warburton typically breaking away from the loose – but lacking close support, the move broke down – a sign of things to come.

Then man-of-the-match, Jamie Roberts, who was increasingly making his presence felt in midfield, led a powerful charge which also broke down after the ball went forward and it was New Zealand back on the attack as a pulsating half ended -– with honours even at 3-3 – and the excited home crowd daring to hope that they could yet witness a slice of rugby history – if only the team could maintain the level of first half excellence and stay error-free.

Those hopes were dealt a blow within two minutes of the resumption when the previous impenetrable red wall was suddenly breached, and dangerous wingman Julian Savea brushed off tackles to race over in the corner, for a try converted by Barrett.

To their credit, the Welsh response was swift. Bridgend's Rhys Webb (whose sniping runs and quick delivery are key to raising the desired tempo of Welsh play, and is fast making the No 9 shirt his own) linked well with Taulupe Faletau to add to his international tries haul, and Halfpenny added the two points, to again bring the sides level.

This stung the world champions into redoubled action and the Welsh defence was again severely tested, but this time it was not found wanting, as 'courtesies were exchanged' up front, and a penalty was awarded which Halfpenny lofted over, to put Wales ahead 13-10.

The whole balance and shape of the game began to shift as Welsh set-piece play unaccountably faltered, with both scrum and line-out malfunctioning – and when a stream of replacements were made, some enforced through injury, including to scrumhalf Webb, with a noticeable slowing of tempo and mounting error count.

This saw New Zealand regain the lead through an unconverted try by blindside forward Jerome Kaino, but Wales rallied again to force a penalty by Halfpenny that inched Wales into a 16-15 lead with just 10 minutes to full time.

But then came a devastating three-try burst that sank Welsh hopes for yet another year, with two tries from Barrett (one from a fortuitous bounce of the ball into his hands after he chipped ahead); one of which was converted, and a converted try by Kieran Read who charged down replacement scrum half Mike Phillips' attempted clearance kick.

It gave the final scoreboard in this 30th encounter a slightly unreal look, being in no sense a fair reflection of the game as a whole.

A "disappointed" Gatland said afterwards: *"I thought we gave it everything and I can't ask any more of the players. There were periods when we rattled them.*

"We put them under pressure, but they came out of it. That's why they are the best team in the world; and we have to learn from it."

So once again, Wales, having put in a superhuman effort to match the world's best, had succumbed to the dreaded final 10 minutes hoodoo, which saw a tantalising victory snatched away at the death.

And it doesn't get any easier in the last autumn test against the second best team in the world – South Africa – at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday...

For the record books make even bleaker reading.

Matches played 29: South Africa 27, Wales 1 (one match drawn).
Total points: South Africa 808 Wales 428.

However, provided they resist a battering ram approach against rugged opponents who revel in a physical arm wrestle, and can reproduce their committed showing against Wallabies and Kiwis, they could yet achieve their target of at least two wins out of four against the Springboks in the last of these dramatic autumn tests.

But only, of course, if they can surmount that last mental barrier and maintain this new-found intensity for the full 80 minutes.

Man-of-the-match Jamie Roberts gave the All Blacks' defence all sorts of problems. *Picture by Huw Evans Agency.*

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